

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN FRANCE

Being a Report of a Tour
made by members of the
Women Public Health Officers' Association

1—12 June, 1938

WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
7 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON, S.W.1

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Programme of Educational Visit to France

1934-1935

Wednesday, 1st June

Thursday, 2nd June

Friday, 3rd June

Saturday, 4th June

Sunday, 5th June

Monday, 6th June

Tuesday, 7th June

Wednesday, 8th June

Thursday, 9th June

Friday, 10th June

Saturday, 11th June

Sunday, 12th June

Monday, 13th June

Tuesday, 14th June

Wednesday, 15th June

Thursday, 16th June

Friday, 17th June

Saturday, 18th June

Sunday, 19th June

Monday, 20th June

Tuesday, 21st June

Wednesday, 22nd June

Thursday, 23rd June

Friday, 24th June

Saturday, 25th June

Sunday, 26th June

Monday, 27th June

Tuesday, 28th June

Wednesday, 29th June

Thursday, 30th June

Friday, 1st July

Saturday, 2nd July

Sunday, 3rd July

Monday, 4th July

Tuesday, 5th July

Wednesday, 6th July

Thursday, 7th July

Friday, 8th July

Saturday, 9th July

Sunday, 10th July

Monday, 11th July

Tuesday, 12th July

Wednesday, 13th July

Thursday, 14th July

Friday, 15th July

THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
THANK THE COMMISSION D'ACCUEIL DU COMITÉ FRANÇAIS DE SERVICE SOCIAL
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY OF LEARNING SOMETHING OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WELFARE IN PARIS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SEINE.
THEY THANK PROFESSOR JACQUES PARISOT FOR A SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY
IN NANCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MEURTHE AND MOSELLE.
THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST AND KINDNESS MADE POSSIBLE ALL THE
VISITS DESCRIBED IN THESE PAGES.

Programme of Educational Visit to France.

1st—12th June, 1938.

Wednesday, 1st June. 9 p.m. Leave London.

Thursday, 2nd June. Afternoon in Rouen.
Arrive in Paris.

PARIS.

Friday, 3rd June.
Morning.

Plessis Robinson Housing Estate; demonstration of Garchey System of Refuse Disposal.

Lunch by invitation, at the Social Settlement, Levallois-Perret.

Afternoon.

Courbevoie Health Centre.

Beaujon Hospital.

Evening.

Reception by Mme. Gillet, Vice-President of the Comité Français de Service Social.

Saturday, 4th June.
Morning.

Visit to Suresnes.

Town Hall.

Darracq Institute.

Open air school.

Group of school buildings.

Nursery School.

Lunch by invitation of Madame G. Getting, President of the Reception Committee of the Comité Français de Service Social, at the Mont Valérien Institute.

Afternoon.

Mont Valérien Institute.

Evening.

Visit to the Louvre, by invitation of the Museum Authorities.

Whit-Sunday, 5th June.

Free. Optional afternoon excursion to Versailles.

9 p.m. Lecture by Mme. Parker, of the Ligue Française pour le Relèvement de la Moralité Publique.

Whit-Monday, 6th June.

Free. Optional excursion to Chartres.

Whit-Tuesday, 7th June.
Morning.

Short visit to the Cathedral of Notre Dame.

La Glacière Elementary School, Rue Kuss.

Reception by the Mayor of Malakoff in the Municipal Day Nursery.

School of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Paris.

Lunch at the School of Pediatrics, by invitation of Madame Decroix, Vice-President of the Reception Committee.

Afternoon.

Pasteur Institute. Visit organised by Dr. Godard.

Wednesday, 8th June.
Morning.

Industrial welfare work at the Ets Geo factory, Kremlin Bicetre: Infirmary, children's garden, workers' club, stadium, hostels.

1-45 p.m. Leave Paris.

NANCY.

9 p.m. Reception by Professor Jacques Parisot, Director of the Institute of Hygiene, President of the Health Committee of the League of Nations.

Thursday, 9th June.
Morning.

Public Health Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle: Lecture by Professor Jacques Parisot.

Institute of Hygiene.

Preventorium at Flavigny.

Lunch at the Preventorium.

Afternoon.

A rural health centre: Vezelise.

Village centre for boarding-out children; Thorey-Lyautey.

Friday, 10th June.
Morning.

Industrial welfare centre: Pompey.

Public Health Centre in a suburb: Maxeville.

Jean-Baptiste Thierry Home (for children with rickets and other abnormalities.)

Afternoon.

Central V.D. Dispensary.

Open-air school, Gentilly.

County maternity hospital.

Dental clinic.

Saturday, 11th June.

Leave Nancy.

Three hours in Rheims.

8-0 p.m. Leave Paris.

Sunday, 12th June.

9-7 a.m. Arrive in London.

Programme de Visites d'Etude en France.

Le 1 — 12 Juin 1938.

Mercredi 1 Juin.

21. H. Départ de Londres.

Jeudi 2 Juin.

Après-midi à Rouen.

Arrivée à Paris.

PARIS.

Vendredi 3 Juin.

Matin.

Plessis Robinson, Quelques types de logement de la Cité Jardin. Exposé du Système Garchey.

Lunch à la Residence Sociale, Levallois-Perret.

Après-midi.

Visite du Centre de Santé et Médecine préventive de Courbevoie.

Hôpital Beaujon, Clichy.

Soirée.

Réception chez Madame Gillet, Vice-Présidente du Comité Français de Service Social.

Samedi 4 Juin.

Matin.

Visites à Suresnes

La Mairie.

Fondation Darracq.

Ecole de Plein Air.

Groupe scolaire-Ecole Maternelle.

Lunch offert à la Fondation du Mt. Valérien par Madame G. Getting, Présidente de la Commission d'Accueil.

Après-midi.

Fondation de Mont Valérien.

Soirée.

Soirée au Louvre offerte par la Direction du Musée. Visites des Salles éclairées. sous la direction d'un conservateur.

Dimanche 5 Juin.

Soirée.

Libre. L'après-midi, excursion facultative à Versailles.

Monsieur et Madame Daniel Parker dîneront avec la Groupe. Madame Parker fera un discours sur le travail de la Ligue Français pour le Relèvement de la Moralité Publique.

Lundi 6 Juin.

Libre. Excursion facultative à Chartres.

Mardi 7 Juin.

Matin.

Courte visite de Notre Dame.

Ecole Primaire, La Glacière, Rue Kuss.

Visite de la crèche Municipale de Malakoff.

Réception par Monsieur le Maire de Malakoff.

Ecole de Puériculture de la Faculté de Médecine de Paris.

Lunch offert à l'Ecole de Puériculture par Madame Decroix, Vice-Présidente de la commission d'Accueil.

Après-midi.

Institut Pasteur. Visite organisée par le Docteur Godard, Médecin-Inspecteur de l'Office Public d'Hygiène Social, Département de la Seine.

Mercredi 8 Juin.

Matin.

Visite d'un centre d'Hygiène industrielle: Usine des Ets Geo au Kremlin Bicetre; l'infirmerie, le jardin d'enfants, le foyer du personnel, le stade, une ou deux cités.

13. H. 45. Départ de Paris.

NANCY.

Réception chez le Professeur Jacques Parisot, Directeur de l'Institut d'Hygiène de Nancy, Président de la Commission d'Hygiène de la Société des Nations.

Jeudi 9 Juin.

Matin.

Office d'hygiène sociale de Meurthe-et-Moselle; exposé général de son organisation et de son fonctionnement, de son service médico-social, des liaisons établies par lui dans le cadre départemental, par le Professeur Jacques Parisot. Institut d'Hygiène.

Préventorium de Flavigny.

Déjeuner au Préventorium.

Après-midi.

Centre d'hygiène rurale: Vézélise.

Placement familial surveillé en pleine campagne: Thorey-Lyautey.

Vendredi 10 Juin.

Matin.

Visite d'un centre d'hygiène industrielle: Pompey.

Visite d'un centre d'hygiène en banlieu: Maxéville.

Hospice Jean-Baptiste Thiery (enfants rachitiques et anormaux).

Après-midi.

Dispensaire Central.

Ecole de plein air de Gentilly.

Maternité départementale.

Institut Dentaire.

Samedi 11 Juin.

8. H. 41. Départ de Nancy.

Visite de Reims.

20 H. 00. Départ de Paris.

Dimanche 12 Juin.

9. H. 07. Arrivée à Londres.

Notes on the Organisation of Public Health in France

Central. Public health activities are under the general direction of the Ministry of Public Health in Paris. Each Department (or County) has an official health service, headed by "Inspecteurs d'hygiène," who correspond to our M.O.Hs.

Local. It is, however, only as lately as 1936 that the Ministry has attempted to standardize and codify the health services of the different *départements*. Certain measures of social health work, such as school medical services and child welfare, are not compulsory but adoptive. For this reason and also because French local government is even more watertight than in England, the variation of services, both in quality and kind, from area to area, is probably more marked than in this country.

Paris. Paris itself has a comprehensive scheme of health services. Its various municipal health centres are supplemented by dispensaries depending directly on the Ministry of Public Health, and generally specializing in T.B. and V.D., and by other notable centres run by voluntary and semi-voluntary organizations. Its health visiting system is fairly complete, but the staff is engaged primarily by a private organization. The health visitors enjoy official recognition and are gradually being taken over by the municipality. Health visiting proper in France began at a more recent date than in England. In Paris they have only been at work in considerable numbers for five years, but the Infant Mortality Rate has already been halved.

Provinces. Provincial organization, on the whole, is less complete. School nurses, where they exist, are in some places "soigneuse" only, i.e., they simply deal with casual minor treatments. There is, however, a very general tendency to introduce regular medical inspection and hygiene and preventive measures in schools.

Speaking generally, maternity and child welfare, school care, and other social services in provincial France are in some respects at the stage they had reached in England some twenty years ago, i.e., these services were until recently carried on in an irregular and local way by enthusiastic private organizations, while the municipalities were, also irregularly and locally, blessing their efforts and gradually tending to take over the services themselves. At the present time there is a vigorous attempt to obtain a general recognized standard in these services. Some *départements* have very comprehensive schemes in which official and voluntary efforts are closely co-ordinated. Meurthe-Moselle is a notable example.

The Social Insurance Companies. As in England, semi-official and voluntary organizations undertake a great deal of that preventive and palliative health work that is better described as social welfare. It is noteworthy that foremost among the semi-official bodies are the Social Insurance Companies ("Approved Societies"), who, in addition to their original function of providing benefits for sickness, invalidism, maternity and old age, now also largely subsidize the preventive work of both municipal and voluntary centres.

Industrial welfare schemes are being increasingly established, both in nation-wide and local commercial concerns.

There is a growing tendency to employ qualified social workers in such State services as Public Assistance, Police and Government arsenals and factories.

Qualifications of Social Workers. After 1918 there was a great demand for trained social workers, but few schools to train them. The work was therefore undertaken by nurses, midwives and others with vaguer qualifications. Training schools for health

visitors and social workers were founded and an officially recognized diploma instituted (1932). The State examination for nurses dates from 1922.

It is now clear that the schools have been producing health visitors with ample nursing training but insufficient sociological knowledge and social workers well grounded in social sciences, but poorly equipped on the medical side. The position is now in course of regularization under a decree of February, 1938, which takes effect at the end of the present year.

The decree provides for:—

1. A preliminary general education test.
2. There will no longer be nurse-health visitors and social assistants, but only certificated sick nurses and certificated social workers.
3. First year course common to both types of student following the lines of the preliminary science course for medical students, though on a lower scale.
4. Students will then choose between:—
 - (a) Second year's course in general nursing, which will qualify them to sit for the Nursing Diploma and thereafter to practise as sick nurses. They will not be eligible for social welfare posts.
 - (b) Second and third year course in social sciences, including psychology, which will qualify them to take the Social Workers' Diploma. They will then be eligible for health visiting and other social welfare appointments, but not to practise as sick nurses.

Social Insurance is compulsory for all workers earning less than 20,000 francs a year (roughly £3 a week). Contributions are on a sliding scale and equal 4 per cent. of earnings and cover the whole family.

Maternity Benefit. An employed woman is legally entitled to six weeks' leave on half pay, both before and after confinement.

Her confinement and medical fees are paid.

She also draws a monetary benefit on condition:—

1. That she notifies pregnancy not later than the third month.
2. That she attends for medical examination and carries out any treatment prescribed.
3. That she is examined at least three times by the midwife in charge of her case.

Wives of insured men not themselves employed receive the confinement fees only.

Breast-feeding Benefit. There is a breast-feeding benefit (50 francs per month for 4 months and 25 francs per month for a further 3 months) for mothers who suckle their infants.

A medical certificate to the effect that breast feeding is impossible secures 60 per cent. of the full benefit.

Breast-feeding benefit is usually made dependent on the attendance of mother and child at a welfare centre. A further benefit of 50 francs is payable at the end of the first year if the baby is a regular centre attendant and is satisfactorily cared for.

PARIS

A Garden City

FOR THE WORKING AND MIDDLE CLASSES.

PLESSIS—ROBINSON.

THIS garden city, built by private enterprise with subsidies from the County Council (Department of the Seine), on the southern outskirts of Paris, occupies the crown and flank of a pleasantly wooded plateau giving wide views over open country.

The older part, occupying the lower sites, is built on irregular terraces on rising ground: the new part, not yet completed, covers the crown of the plateau.

Working-class Dwellings.

The general plan is to build in four-storey blocks of flats, the ground floor being occupied with garages and store sheds. There are at present 5,000 such flats in occupation. The architecture is extremely simple, but each home has a small balcony. The accommodation ranges from one room and kitchen to five rooms and kitchen, each flat being allotted an individual patch of garden ground in the space at the rear. Playgrounds for small children are provided, so placed that mothers can keep an eye on their offspring from their kitchen windows.

Middle-class Dwellings.

Villas of three, five and six rooms and 'usual offices,' including wash-house, cellar and garage, and four and five-roomed bungalows are available. Both have central heating.

Artists' studios are attached to a number of both flats and villas.

<i>Rents.</i>	Flats	from £7. 10s. to £17 per annum.	} Approximate English money at rate of exchange 170 frs. to £1.
	Bungalows	„ £37 to £44 „	
	Villas	„ £71 to £81 „	

Additional rentals are paid for the hire of domestic installations; the maximum charge is £4. 7s. 6d. per annum, and reductions are granted according to the income and family responsibilities of the tenant.

Extra charges.

Central heating radiators (flats)		£2 per annum.
Gardens (flats)		14/- „
Garages for cars		£9 „
for two motor bicycles		14/- „
for bicycles and prams.		8/6 „

Community Buildings.

Besides a shopping centre and a market, the completed scheme will include a public library, club rooms, recreation halls, an Infant Welfare, three schools, an open-air swimming bath, a concert hall, cinema, an open-air theatre and gymnasium. There will be two sports grounds, tennis courts and bowling green.

Travel into Paris is made by motor bus and rail, and when the Metropolitan railway is extended into the heart of the garden city the centre of Paris will be within twenty minutes.

The family man and the solitary worker, the labourer and the man of business, the professional man, the craftsman and the working artist find at Plessis-Robinson pleasant modern homes in healthy quiet surroundings. It can justly claim to call itself a city, both because it represents such a wide cross-section of society and because it provides within its own borders every amenity for a full and active communal life. It deserves its title of 'garden,' not only for its situation, but especially because its humblest citizen, besides having the freedom of its woods and public parks, may possess for a tiny rental the privilege—denied to wealthy flat dwellers—of cultivating his own private garden.

The Garchey System of Refuse Disposal

INSTALLED AT PLESSIS-ROBINSON.

KITCHENS are fitted with a hopper-shaped container under the sink, where all household refuse is placed. The ordinary waste water from the kitchen sink flushes the rubbish through 6 inch house pipes into 7 inch gravitation pipes running down the outer wall, collecting the refuse from each floor of the building. A collecting pit receives the contents of a number of gravitation pipes. Thence the refuse is sucked through 8 inch service pipes to the disposal station.

Here the solid refuse is divided from the waste water by a centrifugal separator. The water is sent direct to the sewers, the solid matter is drawn up into a drying chamber, whence it falls direct into the incinerator.

The system has been in use at Plessis-Robinson for five years and is used for the market site as well as for house refuse. A recent investigation showed that the inner surface of the pipes is still perfectly clean, owing to the scouring action of domestic ashes, which make up about twelve per cent. of the total dry refuse.

A lorry makes systematic visits to collect rubbish (such as derelict mattresses, etc.) which is too large to be disposed of *via* the domestic container.

To avert the possibility of breakdown all machinery is installed in duplicate, while frequent inspection chambers enable any blockage to be dealt with easily and promptly.

Cost of working compares very favourably with the usual system.

The cost is 12/- per ton, compared with 21/- per ton in London.

There are no dustcarts and no dustbins.

A staff of five men, with one lorry, serve the present city, with its 5,000 flats, villas, bungalows, shops and market.

It is more satisfactory and cheaper than the chute system of refuse disposal frequently used in flat dwellings. The renewal and cleansing of containers in the latter system must be frequent and is costly. Renewal costs at Plessis are negligible and, as we have seen, the system is self-cleansing owing to the action of ashes.

(The Garchey system has been installed on a new housing estate at Leeds.)

A Social Settlement

RÉSIDENCE SOCIALE—LEVALLOIS-PERET.

THIS settlement—social residence the French term it, or less formally and more charmingly "the house of the good neighbour"—was founded during the first decade of the present century by Marie Jeanne Bassot, and grew under her inspired leadership from its small beginnings of two friends in a cottage to a highly diversified social organisation housed in a group of airy buildings set in a pleasant shady garden, and with three daughter settlements in poorer quarters of Paris—for Levallois has gone up in the social scale.

The Settlement's Programme is to provide:—

For children—a centre where their health may be guarded and their education supplemented from their earliest days.

For adolescents—opportunities for physical culture, manual training, development of artistic taste and formation of character.

For parents—social recreation, pleasant occupation of leisure, friendly advice and a helping hand.

The Nursery School receives children from 3—6 years.

School children can come here after school from 4 to 6 o'clock for open-air games and to do their homework. On Thursdays (the French school child's Saturday), besides games there are classes for drawing, sewing, handcrafts and singing, and educational films are shown. On Sundays they are taken for walks and picnics and on visits to museums, etc.

The young people have on every evening their classes, study circles, gym., choral societies and their indoor and outdoor games. Sports matches and social reunions are held on Sunday.

Parents have their various clubs and social meetings. "The good neighbours' circle" possibly corresponds to our mothers' meeting, under a more attractive title.

A touching feature is the Old Folks' Club, which is open every day from two to seven. Every Saturday night a general family social evening is held.

Health Supervision.

There is a weekly infants' welfare, toddlers' clinic, ante-natal and gynecological clinic, and an evening medical consultation for young people; also a monthly clinic for backward children.

The French Social Residences arose from an entirely indigenous impulse drawing its inspiration from within and not consciously following the American or English models, though their development has been closely parallel, and even more complete in conception.

"We found from an English visitor that we were a Settlement without knowing it. So we said, 'very well then,' and joined the International Federation of Social Settlements."

A Family Health Centre

CENTRE FAMILIAL DE SANTÉ ET DE MÉDECINE PRÉVENTIVE—COURBEVOIE.

THIS Family Health Centre in the suburb of Courbevoie was the first such centre to be established in France and has served as a model for similar efforts elsewhere.

The French idea of a Health Centre is definitely the polyclinic, where all members of the family can obtain advice, and in some cases treatment, in all aspects of their health.

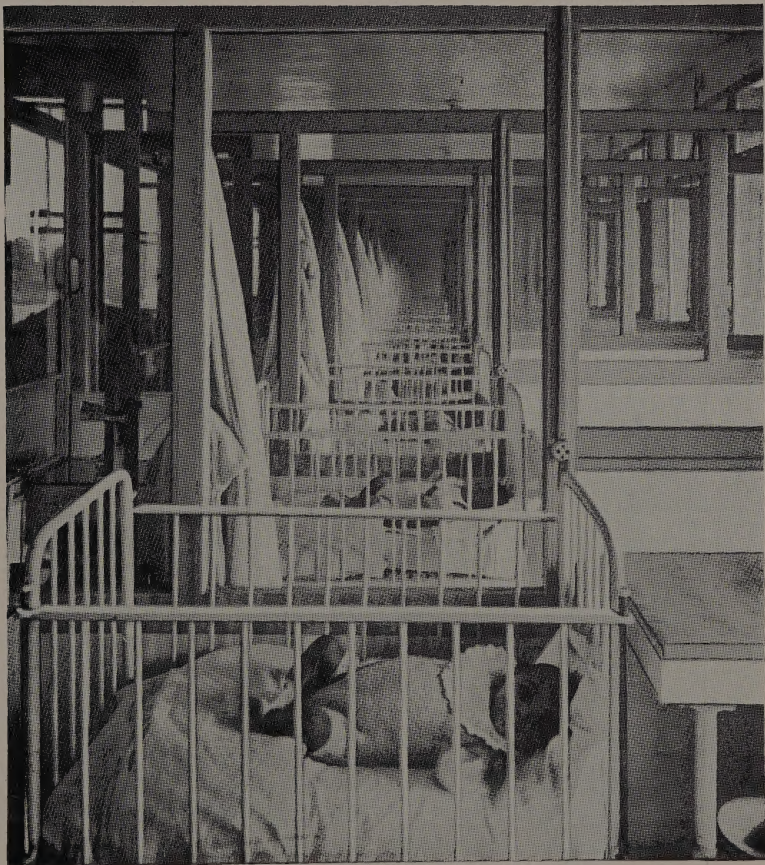
The site and structure of this very modern Centre were the gift of a private benefactress to a voluntary maternity and child welfare society, supplemented by a grant from a public charity.

Its maintenance is provided by the income from a legacy and by grants from the local municipal authority.

In brief outline the services provided include:—



A French
Garden City.



Barrier Nursing
at Courbevoie.



Working class flats at low rentals
in healthy quiet surroundings.



Pasteur Institute. - The shepherd boy.



The House of the Good Neighbour.

I. FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES.

Ante-natal Care.

In France, women workers and the wives of insured workers must notify pregnancy at an early stage in order to be eligible for maternity benefit. In Courbevoie the Centre works in closest co-operation with what we should call the County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Department. The Centre is informed of all notified pregnancies and all births in the area. Charge of these is assigned to the Centre or to branch welfares, according to their district. Expectant mothers are visited and can, if they wish, obtain the pre-natal examinations which are a necessary condition to the payment of maternity benefit, at the Centre.

There is a mutual exchange of reports on all cases between the Centre and the Council offices.

On the notification of a pregnancy or a birth, the Council office sends out an "individual health book," which is duly brought to the Centre for the infant consultations and at all subsequent consultations. These health books will in time, it is hoped, provide valuable material for the contemplated pre-marriage clinics.

Infant Welfare Centre.

In France, the maternity benefit is supplemented by a "breast feeding benefit." In order to be eligible for this, the nursing mother must bring her infant to the Welfare Centre. Where entire breast feeding is not possible, modified feeds to suit individual babies are obtainable through the Centre. Consultations for mothers and babies are frequent, in order to avoid overcrowding and waiting.

Wards for Ailing Babies.

These wards specialize in the "readaptation" of delicate and debilitated babies before they are sent to country convalescent homes, and receive infants from the general hospitals of Paris, as well as from the locality. The average stay is from four to five months.

II. SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Consultant Specialists.

Ailing school children selected and sent up to the Centre by the School Nurses are examined by a team of specialists working in consultation, in order to secure a complete diagnosis. The results of this thorough examination is sent on request to the family doctor. Each child is re-examined every three or six months.

Remedial and breathing exercises, orthopædic gymnastics and sunlight treatment are provided; dental, ear, nose and throat treatment is given; vaccinations and anti-tetanic and anti-diphtheric inoculations are carried out.

There is a Mental Hygiene Consultation, or, as we should say, a Child Guidance Clinic, and various classes for speech and other nervous defects.

III. ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS.

An outstanding feature of the service for adolescents is the provision of **vocational tests** for the "school leavers." Adolescents also share with adults the advantages of the preventive and diagnostic consultations provided by a team of specialists.

Team Diagnoses.

These adult consultations are held on Saturday afternoon and are very carefully organized to ensure thorough and co-ordinated medical and laboratory examinations for each patient in the least possible period of time. The case sheet is transferred from one specialist to another and, although the patient does not at any time see his case sheet, a copy is always sent to his private doctor at his request.

The consultant function of the Centre is diagnostic only. Treatment is left to the patient's own doctor. The Centre is always ready to put specialist advice and the most modern apparatus at the disposal of private practitioners in the treatment of their patients. The Centre works in close co-operation with local doctors as helpmeet and never as rival.

Adults are encouraged to submit themselves to systematic examination, so that slight symptoms which would otherwise pass unnoticed may be discovered and disorders treated in their early stages.

A fee of 130 francs is charged for a complete specialist examination. **80 per cent. of this is refunded by the patients' Approved Insurance Societies.**

To illustrate the amount of preventive work done by this Centre here are the records of attendances **for three months** in 1935.

Infants under one year	381	Breast fed	55.9 per cent.	Died	0.26 per cent.
Babies over one year	172				
School Children	1030				
Expectant Mothers	193				
Adults	393.	Of these	166 referred to private doctors.		
		20	„ to special hospitals.		
		5	„ to V.D. Clinic.		
		110	„ for re-examination.		
		25 only (6 per cent.)	were found to be in sound health.		
V.D. Clinic	379	blood tests.	36 positive.		
Laboratory	2224	specimens examined.			

THINGS SEEN.

The Babies' Waiting Room, with its ingenious rows of glass-screened stalls, where mothers can undress and dress their babies without risk of chance infection. The similarly glass-screened isolation room for suspicious cases, with an exit direct to the street. Next door is a room equipped with rows of babies' baths, where inexperienced mothers and senior school girls are taught the art of baby's toilet. The upper half of the party wall is glazed, so that mothers waiting their turn for the doctor can watch demonstrations. Here also are shower baths for the school children.

Leading out of the waiting hall is a room for dressings and small treatments, a little dispensary, the sunlight room, the weighing room and the doctor's consultation room, where a team of white-clad students and helpers were entering the doctor's notes and instructions on the Centre records and in the mothers' "Baby's health book."

The "School Clinic."

Before being admitted to the large waiting room—which can be turned into a cinema—all children are scrutinized by a nurse and all suspicious cases are sent to await examination in glass-screened isolation boxes, each of which has its exit direct to the street. A row of double entry dressing cubicles, open on one side into the weighing room, where weight, height, lung capacity and muscular strength is noted, and on the other into the general medical consultation room.

The range of consulting rooms, each with its complete and most modern equipment for sight testing, dental, ear, nose and throat treatments; a special consulting room for hereditary diseases, and a radiology department.

All new entrants are systematically X-rayed. The radiology room is next to the sunlight room and separated from it by a range of double entry dressing cubicles, which serve both departments.

The small but well equipped laboratory.

The gymnasium, with its sliding glass walls on three sides, opening on to a roof garden, so that when the weather is suitable the classes are held under practically open-air conditions. In winter this gym. is irradiated by ultra violet light. Adjoining is the treatment room for ultra violet and radiant heat. All exercises are taken under a trained instructress and are followed by shower baths.

The hospital wing, where 14 children generally of T.B. or V.D. parents are treated. The wards are divided into completely separate glass cubicles and open on to a verandah, of which full use is made on sunny days. Post-graduate and nursery nurses come here for six months' training. We saw here some admirable illustrations of "before" and "after" treatment.

The beautifully equipped 'kitchen-laboratory,' where the feeds are prepared. The standard feed for delicate and premature babies is interesting. Milk is boiled, cooled, then skimmed. Reboiled—3 grammes per litre of calcium lactate added as it comes to boiling point—strained—10 per cent. rice water and 10 per cent. sugar syrup added.

Finally **the quarters of the nursing staff and the students** deserve mention.

These delightful bed-sitters have been planned to give the greatest possible comfort. The ingenious built-in furniture and fittings and the wide windows give a sense of space, the deep easy chairs and broad divan beds a sense of relaxation and peace, the dainty colour schemes, different in each room, lend the individual touch. There is a pleasant common room, with generous easy chairs.

This Centre is making a magnificent effort to remove that reproach uttered by Marcus Aurelius:

"Of all the riches that a man hath the most precious and the most ill guarded is his health."

A Municipal Hospital

HOPITAL BEAUJON—CLICHY.

THE Beaujon Hospital at Clichy is one of the thirteen general hospitals maintained by the Paris Public Assistance Authority. In this respect, therefore, it is comparable to a London County Council general hospital. There the similarity ends. The L.C.C., so far, has not given us anything at all like Beaujon.

The vertical idea.

This great hospital of 1,100 beds breaks away from the tradition of the hospital in separate blocks and, with its wards piling up twelve storeys high, presents a challenging example of the vertical idea.

It is claimed for this type of hospital building that it economizes running expenses and saves the staff both time and fatigue. That it economizes the limited and valuable ground sites of a great city is undeniable. The planning of Beaujon has provided not only a gracious and airy spaciousness in all its interior arrangements, but has also enabled the nursing staff and a large proportion of its other employees and their families to be housed in flats, which, although within a short distance of the hospital, are entirely exterior to it and free of hospital atmosphere.

Beaujon was built by public funds, and France is not a rich country, hence there has been no use of the costlier building materials or mere decorative detail. The building is entirely modern in its flat planes and stark angles. But the great towering block is considerably wider than its height and is thereby preserved from the top-heavy appearance of the American sky scraper. The effect is softened by advancing the two lower storeys and building them in a curving bow, mounting in tiers to the jutting centre piece of the main entrance hall (reached by a ramp from ground level). The second storey, with its continuous range of windows, presents the appearance of a light colonnade. The front of the building is further beautified by throwing out the various out-patients' departments, and the casualty and the night services in the form of low flat-roofed pavilions of two

storeys, of which the upper is deeply recessed. The window jambs of these pavilions repeat the colonnade effect. Even to the timid taste the first sight of Beaujon must be impressive and contemplation reveals the latent beauty of balance and poise, in spite of the great height and uncompromising simplicity of line.

Separate rooms for grave cases.

350 beds are provided in single bed wards, *not* for the paying patient, but for the graver cases. The first purpose is to spare the patients in the general wards the depressing effect of the presence of a desperately ill or dying patient—an effect in no wise lessened by screening. The sick person himself gains greater quiet, though hardly greater privacy, for the single wards are half glass walled on the corridor side, thus facilitating nursing observation. This latter arrangement has been criticized, but it may be urged that to see, though not to hear, the traffic of the corridor, instead of being shut solitary within four solid walls, may lessen for the patient the dreadful sense of being cut off from the living world.

The patient first and last.

Every ward opens to the south. Each floor is completely self-contained. Every bed has its wireless headphones and its bed table with book rest. The beds themselves, though the mattresses, being French, are past criticism, do not present the parade precision of the well comported English ward.

But this hospital of Beaujon openly boasts that its concern is the comfort of the patient first, last and all the time, and that other considerations by comparison are nowhere. No regimented 5 a.m. washings here!

This 'comfort of the patient' is served by a very well-stocked library, which sends daily trolleys round the wards laden with books, magazines and periodicals, including fashion papers and knitting books.

A concert hall and recreation room provides entertainment for the convalescents, and there is both a Catholic chapel and a hall reserved for the services of other cults.

Night Service Department.

One of the most original features in this prime consideration of the patient, and one which deserves to be generally copied, is the night service block, which is equipped to deal with every possible emergency. Here all patients admitted after 6 p.m. are received, given all necessary treatment and kept until morning before being warded. This to avoid disturbing the rest of other patients.

Internal communications are maintained by house telephones, pneumatic delivery tubes (for mail, documents and small packets) by eight large passenger lifts and twenty-three service lifts.

Staff Quarters.

The hospital does not neglect its staff. Everyone works a 40 hour week. The nurses' rooms are not mere sleeping places, but pleasantly individual bed-sitters. There is a crèche and a nursery school for the children of the women kitchen and laundry workers and cleaners, and family flats for married employees.

The Beaujon Municipal Hospital is in many respects unique—in Europe at any rate. It does honour to French enterprise and sets an example to other public administrations.

Suresnes

A NEW SUBURB PLANS FOR ITS CHILDREN.

SURESNES is a small township on the outskirts of Paris, surrounded by a growing garden city of principally working-class homes. The Local Authority determined when the garden city was first planned to achieve a complete scheme of social services adequate for the whole future population.

As far as the children of the community are concerned, the plan includes:

- I. Infants.** Ante-natal Clinics (2).
Infant Consultations (2).
Crèches (2).
Centres for distribution of sterilized milk (3).

Staff—Twelve health visitors, in addition to medical consultants.

II. Pre-School Age.

- (a) Nursery Schools (3) with
(b) Open-air classes in special class rooms with sliding walls of quartz glass (2).

The children to be regularly medically inspected and trained social workers to be employed.

III. School Age. A. Elementary.

Mixed schools for boys and girls up to 10 years.

Special School.

Open-air School.

Ancillary services:

- (1) Thorough medical inspections, with various specialist services, including psychological treatment.
(2) Diphtheria immunization and Schick Test.
(3) Special instructions, e.g. singing, eurhythmics, swimming.
(4) Handcraft training and vocational guidance in the choice of these.
(5) Domestic science instruction in girls' schools.
(6) School canteens, holiday camps, play centres.

IV. Higher Education.

Secondary School for boys, with an industrial section linked with a polytechnic school for commercial and trade courses.

Secondary School for girls, with a commercial section.

Special courses in preparation for apprenticeship in skilled trades and advanced commercial studies for boys.

Special courses in preparation for skilled domestic occupations and advanced commercial studies for girls.

A municipal department is to further sports, games, popular education and the sane use of leisure generally.

The Daracq Institute

SURESNES.

THE municipal provision for child welfare in Suresnes is supplemented by the efforts of a voluntary society. A private benefactor founded this institute, which, in the advantageous surroundings of an extremely up-to-date building, besides supplying in-patient care for the children of tuberculous parents and those who have been otherwise exposed to serious tubercular infection, also provides a day nursery and a maternity and child welfare centre.

The Day Nursery takes children from birth to two and a half years.

The Wards receive children from birth to four years old, not only from Suresnes but from tuberculosis dispensaries in all parts of Paris.

Separate wards are kept for the children who show a positive reaction and are awaiting admission to sanatoria and for child contacts showing a negative reaction.

Each ward has its balcony and there is in addition a deep-bayed sun room with sliding glass walls.

The wards, the nursery and the rest rooms are beautifully equipped, the most scrupulous cleanliness and care being exercised in every detail, while the French woman's genius for daintiness has found expression in delicate embroideries which lend a charming individuality to each small patient's cot and other articles of personal use.

With the wards and nursery, the Institute cares for a maximum of 65 children. The day nursery occupies the ground floor of the main building, with the hospital section above. The ante-natal clinics and baby consultations are housed in a separate wing.

A Nursery School

ÉCOLE MATERNELLE—SURESNES.

THE nursery school began in 1934 with one class, now there are two nursery schools, with 11 classes and 500 children.

Children are received from two to six years old and thus pass through the stages of the nursery school proper (in the limited English sense), the kindergarten and the infant school.

The fee is 2 francs a day, which includes a mid-day meal. If the parents are unemployed no charge is made.

The tessellated entrance hall has a miniature gold fish pool, set with flowering plants. Begonias flower in Alibaba oil jars.

One passes next into the main assembly hall, where there is a well stocked aviary. The classrooms—low, graceful buildings with steep pitched roofs and wide windows bright with geraniums, are spread out round a sunny central court, strewn with clean sand and shaded by chestnuts. Everywhere there are flowers—the iron supports of the swings and see saws are smothered in climbing roses; flowers crowd, higgledy piggledy along with the weeds in the individual garden plots.

Each classroom has its washroom, with equipment in proportion to the children's age, and in addition there is a bath house where there are rows of showers and shallow sunk baths. Everyone has a bath on Saturday.

There are special classes for physically and mentally retarded children and a classroom devoted to the strict practice of Montessori methods.

There is a refectory with little tables and a rest room.

Handwork is a great feature of the training. Amazingly elaborate embroidery and fancy needlework, rug making and raffia work is done by these tiny people—boys and girls alike. We doubted our own adult capacity to achieve some of it and could not, by any stretch of imagination, see English children patiently setting stitch on accurate stitch—and keeping the work so clean as do their French contemporaries. We were assured that during the handcraft classes the children work as they feel inclined. They are perfectly free to wander out into the courtyard and play when they tire and to return when so disposed.

Boys' Secondary School

ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE SUPERIEURE DE GARÇONS.

FROM the nursery school we passed into the adjoining school for boys, which accommodates 1,200 scholars.

The two most striking features of this fine modern building is the big swimming bath, which is open to the use of all the 6,000 children of Suresnes; and the really magni-



Typical corner of a Nurse's bed-sitting room.



Screened dressing boxes.
Baby Clinic waiting room,
Courbevoie.



Future Mothers of France.
Courbevoie.

ficient gymnasium. With its austere clean lines and vaulted roof, it gives the impression of lofty height and clear cut grace, while the golden glass of the great windows must lend the illusion of sunshine on the dulllest winter day.

The workshops, too, are no make belief, but equipped for serious work.

In the refectory dinner is served for 2.50 francs (to those who are able to pay). 200 boys usually stay for the meal. We inspected the glisteningly clean kitchen and the meal in preparation. Roast mutton, roast potatoes, haricots, macaroni pudding—pretty good for the equivalent of threepence ha'penny! An unusual item in the menu is the infusion of lime flowers served as beverage. It is said to have a mildly sedative effect on the nervous system!

An Open Air School

ÉCOLE PERMANENTE DE PLEIN AIR—SURESNES.

AN open air school is an ordinary enough phenomenon—there is nothing in the words to quicken the pulses. But this one at Suresnes is an open air school with a difference, and we wish we could describe it under some more exciting title.

THE PLAN.

It is built just below the summit of a steepish hill, facing south and west over a wide plain of open country. The original inhabitants of this dry and sunny site—ilex and conifers, orchard trees and little vineyards—have been left as far as possible undisturbed. The low buildings have been cleverly accommodated to the natural irregular fall of the ground. On the higher level a long curving range of buildings presents a blank wall to the higher ground on the north and east, but on the sunny side is all glass and pale blue paint. Here are housed the kitchens, the administration offices, the refectories, the gymnasium, part of which can be readily turned into a cinema; shower baths and shallow swimming pool, the nursery classes, the boys' workshop, and the rest rooms, these supplied with stretcher beds raised at the head and with ultra violet lamps for winter use.

Eight classrooms, each a completely separate unit, are dotted about the lower slopes. In the centre of these is the medical inspection room, an isolated pavilion like the rest.

The ramp.

In order that these classrooms may be reached dry shod and with the minimum of fatigue, a broad, parapetted ramp, set on light pillars, swings out in a wide semi-circle from either wing of the main block and, passing the classrooms in turn sends out a gently sloping path to each.

In spite of the steepness of the site, there is not a step or a stair in the whole school, and so cleverly has the incline been turned to advantage that no structure intercepts another's sun.

The classrooms.

The classrooms themselves have only one solid wall, the other three are unbreakable glass set in hinged frames, which fold back on each other, accordion fashion, easily and silently at the turn of a handle. The natural warmth of the shallow sun-soaked soil is supplemented by a heating system, which warms the floor and surrounds each pavilion with a curtain of warmed air, thus allowing of work in the open air, even in winter. The classrooms have flat roofs, of which full use is made in suitable weather. With their glass walls and flat roofs the classrooms look like crystal cubes set down in the green of grass and foliage.

The grounds.

The roughly triangular space between the ramp and the main block is divided by the natural fall of the land into two terraces at different levels. The higher has been left

under grass and shaded by its pines and firs, gay with informal flower beds and cool with blue-tiled paddling pools, provides a lovely garden for rest and free play.

The lower terrace has been cleared and surfaced, though some trees have been left in situ, and here organized games and exercises take place.

The Solarium.

Between the two terraces rises the circular solarium. Its walls of quartz glass, admitting ultra-violet rays of sunlight, can be folded back so that it is open to the air on all sides. The solarium is used especially for the class of mentally retarded children.

A ship painted blue.

The upper buildings are entirely fronted with hinged glass windows like the classrooms. With its white and blue paint, its dazzling glass, its airy white ramp, the architects have compared the school to a great ship painted blue.

The simile is a pretty one and apt enough if one can conceive of a ship with trees growing on the decks and on whose bridge one can walk among tree tops and gather cherries as one passes.

THE PROGRAMME.

Complete Elementary Education.

The School was opened in 1935 with 800 pupils, chosen from the most delicate children of Suresnes. It provides a complete primary education from the nursery school onwards. All classes are mixed. The senior class prepares pupils for entrance to the secondary schools and high schools. There is a class for retarded children. In all there are eleven classes, averaging 30 pupils each.

A maximum of four hours daily is given to class work. The rest of the time is taken up by physical exercises, organized games, rest and the daily bath and shower. The temperature of these is regulated according to the weather and the physical condition of each individual. Much class time is given to manual work of all kinds.

School meals.

A mid-day meal is given to all children, also a mid-morning lunch and a tea-time snack with a glass of milk.

Dinner consists of soup, raw salad, meat and cooked vegetables, some form of milk pudding and raw or cooked fruit.

Charge for meal according to the parents' means is 2 fr.50, 1fr.25. or free.

The menus are drawn up by the headmistress and school doctor in consultation.

Medical inspection.

A formal medical inspection is held twice monthly. The doctor besides comes once a week and keeps every child under close observation. The staff of three doctors is supplemented by visiting specialists. A resident nurse is responsible for weights and measurements, breathing tests and minor treatments.

Social workers deal with home problems.

The results.

An average gain in weight of five lbs. per scholar during the ten months of school attendance was registered in the first two years of the School's existence.

The educational results are equally encouraging. The percentage of examination successes is the same as in the ordinary schools. The 'intellectual recuperation' noted among the children has been more than satisfactory and fully justifies confidence in the methods followed by the school, both from the educational and the medical point of view.

Such is the Open-air School of Suresnes. A magnificent conception boldly realized, that has amply justified itself and should encourage other authorities in other countries to go and do likewise.

A Hospital for the Middle Classes

FONDATION MÉDICALE DU MONT VALÉRIEN.

THIS tall white hospital, crowning the summit of Mont Valérien, is intended for middle-class patients who, being able to contribute towards the cost of their treatment, are unsuitable for admission to public hospitals, but yet are unable to afford the fees of private nursing homes.

The hospital was founded by private subscriptions supplemented by State grants. Fees are fixed on an estimate of the bare cost of maintenance and treatment. There is no question of making a profit.

Individual rooms.

There are 340 private rooms for adult and child patients, divided among the medical, surgical, maternity and infectious departments. There are no general wards.

Out-patients.

There are also out-patient clinics, a radiology department and a full range of laboratories.

Fees.

The charges for medical and surgical cases are about nine shillings a day, and about ten shillings and sixpence for infectious patients. Forty rooms are reserved for patients in easy circumstances and these are charged at 13s. a day, but there is no difference of any kind in the services rendered.

Medical attendance.

Patients are attended by the hospital resident and visiting medical staff *or* by their own doctors. Patients are also entitled to call their family doctor or any other practitioner they desire into consultation with the hospital staff, the fees of such consultation being met by the patient.

Welfare workers.

The hospital welfare workers combine the functions of almoners, health visitors and after-care workers, visiting the homes and families of patients.

Visitors' amenities.

The eleventh and topmost storey is occupied by two roof gardens; one, with restaurant, lounge and writing room attached, is reserved for the relatives of patients.

The other is devoted to the use of convalescent patients who may desire to take an airing further afield than the open-air solarium which is provided on every floor.

These roof gardens command from their airy height a magnificent view across the ribbon of the Seine and the wide greenery of the Bois de Boulogne to the landmarks of distant Paris.

The sick rooms.

The patients' rooms are furnished as much like the normal French bedrooms as is consistent with asepsis and facilities for good nursing.

The lights over the bed can be changed by a touch into either direct or diffused illumination. A horizontal blue light set in the skirting and operated from the corridor enables the night nurse to observe her patients with the minimum risk of disturbing them. All windows are sheltered from excessive sun by wooden outside shades which operate from inside the room and can be lowered and tilted to any required angle. Soaking in linseed oil has been found to be the best and cheapest preservative for these 'volets.'

Floor kitchens.

The floor kitchens are admirably equipped, each having among other amenities a hot waggon, a dumb waiter filled with numbered trays, a dish washing machine and an electric grill.

The infectious block.

The isolated infectious block, with its fifty beds, calls for special mention.

The separate rooms are daintily comfortable, though all the furnishings are designed for thorough and easy cleansing. The walls are tiled in delicate colours. Each room has its observation window, set in a recessed alcove in the corridor provided with an external telephone receiver duplicated by the patient's bedside. Isolated patients are thus both able to see and talk to their friends in privacy.

Maternity.

The maternity wards have each their own cot, baby scales, easy chair with leg rest and enamelled steel cupboard running on pneumatic castors. The top of this cupboard is fitted with a mattress in a non-absorbent cover, for use during baby's toilet. Each room has its separate W.C.

Noise proof room for babies.

Another original feature is the room for obstreperous babies, walled with a noise absorbing material—Cellotex, manufactured, we were told, in Georgia from sugar cane residue. It has a smooth surface which can be painted.

The inclusive fees for a confinement, with all ante-natal consultations and the vaccination of the infant, is a little under £15. Patients are also admitted during pregnancy, at a charge of 6s. a day if in good health and simply requiring rest, or 10s. a day if in need of sick nursing. Additional residence after the 14th day of lying-in, 11s. a day. Babies born in the hospital and retained after the mother's discharge, 4s. 6d. a day.

Operation fees.

Surgeons, anaesthetists and theatre fees are extras. For example, an appendicectomy, including ten days stay in hospital, would, in all, cost a little under £13.

Nursing staff quarters.

The comfort of the nursing staff is as carefully guarded as the patients'. Their drawing-room is a really beautiful room, with long windows giving on a verandah overlooking a charming garden. Its furnishing could never have been the work of a firm of contractors. It seems much more probably the result of personal gifts by cultured patrons.

The nurses' own rooms—bed-sitters, as is customary—have generous rugs on the polished wood floors, ample settee beds, bed lamp, reading lamp, deep easy chair, writing table bookshelves and radiator. Each has a little anteroom, with a fitted clothes cupboard built in, and a separate dressing room with fitted wash basin and dressing table, with a triple mirror.

Patients' private telephones.

Another unique privilege obtainable by patients in this unusual hospital is the installation of a telephone in their sick rooms for the very nominal sum of 3s. plus the usual charge for calls made.

A rest cure for H.V's?

Altogether it seems a good place for tired health visitors to take a restful holiday. Members of the Tour were assured that they and their colleagues in England would be made most welcome as patients at any time! To have a thorough rest in luxurious comfort, to be delicately fed, waited on and generally cockered up; to bask in the sun on the roof garden; to say nothing of receiving a daily visit from the charming English-speaking medical superintendent, all at the inclusive cost of 9s. a day (or rather less than bed and board at a mediocre hotel) seems a thoroughly sound proposition.

An Elementary School

AT LA GLACIÈRE.

THIS fairly recent school building serves one of the older working-class districts of Paris. There are 720 girls, 600 boys and 300 infants.

The boys' school occupies the ground floor, with the exception of the inner rooms, giving on a sunny central court, which are given up to the Nursery School. The girls' school is above.

Holiday Play Centre.

The school is used as a play centre during the holidays, a custom which we might profitably copy in England, though one must confess that gravelled tree-shaded courts and wide-windowed assembly halls, with pale-tinted walls and wood floors glossy and aromatic with polish, associate themselves more easily with the idea of care-free play than the asphalted yards walled in grimy brick and the forbidding buildings (whose windows were intended for ventilation and lighting only and not to be looked out of) which English Education Authorities have too commonly inherited from the 19th century.

Medical Service.

This school has its medical inspection room. The doctor attends once a week and every child has a full examination once a year—another improvement on the English standard of three times during school life. There is a full-time school nurse, who has her own office cum treatment room. There is a rest room for scholars who feel poorly and an isolation cubicle for suspicious cases.

Baths.

There is also a full provision of baths and showers, of which ample use is made, "compulsorily if necessary."

School Meals.

There is a kitchen most efficiently equipped, as one expects in this country of good cooks, and a pleasant dining hall. One child in seven takes its mid-day meal at school. The charge is 3 francs (4½d.) or free to the children of unemployed.

Social Services.

A private charitable fund provides additional nourishment—milk and special food drugs—for the nursery school.

A School Fund provides clothes, shoes and meals for children of the unemployed.

Forty children are annually sent for a country holiday from the proceeds of sales of work and entertainments organized by the teaching staff.

Resident 'Heads.'

Both headmaster and headmistress have their private flats on the premises. This arrangement, no doubt, has its 'cons' as well as its 'pros,' but it may conceivably help to lend to a free day school something of the intimacy and cohesion inherent in the rather vague set of values we call 'the public school spirit'—may be a factor tending to make school the home as well as the workshop of education.

Sanitation: an original arrangement.

The W.C.s. are singular enough to deserve special mention. There are rows and rows of them. An open porcelain trough at ground level, without stools, and automatically flushed by the opening of the door from within.

Air conditioning.

The ventilation is regulated by a special plant and air is conditioned. The great advantage of this is the complete absence of dust. Apart from cleanliness, the 'chesty' among pupils and staff alike benefit in health and are saved many a winter illness. Windows forming practically the whole of one wall of the classrooms make them beautifully light and allow full entry of sunshine. However, it must be admitted that this expanse of glass makes the rooms facing south uncomfortably hot on fine summer days. Some outside shading seems required. Outside blinds, however, are expensive, soon deteriorate and need frequent renewal.

Domestic Science.

There are fifty children to a class—'Alas! too many!' The girls' school includes a domestic subjects room, equipped for teaching cookery, sewing and laundry. All girls over twelve take these subjects in groups of twenty at a time.

Special Evening Classes.

School hours in Paris are from 8-30 to 11-30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Out of school hours there are classes for eurythmics and gymnasium for which a fee of 40 francs (5s.) a year is charged. "They come better if they pay."

A Municipal Day Nursery

CRÊCHE MUNICIPALE—MALAKOFF.

WE will let this municipal Day Nursery speak for itself through the typed sheets which had been so carefully prepared in their own tongue for the English visitors. Here and there we have substituted for a quite accurate but slightly unusual word the term commonly employed in England.

REGULATIONS OF THE NURSERY.

The Nursery is an establishment the aim of which is to keep and to care for babes during the mothers' working hours, up to their third year.

The purpose for which the Nursery was instituted is: to enable the mothers to feed their children with their own milk; to keep the family ties intact in the needy classes by supplying the mothers with the means of having their children near them, even when their work obliges them to be away from their homes; to help them to begin the physical and moral education of their children.

Nursery Hours: The Nursery is open from 7 a.m. till 6 p.m. It is closed on Sundays and public holidays. No child is allowed to spend the night.

Conditions for admission: The Nursery is opened to all children, without any distinction of nationality or creed, whose mothers are out at work, and exceptionally, to those whose mothers work at home in bad conditions of hygiene.

Age of the babes: Babes are admitted to the Nursery between the ages of 15 days and three years.

Documents necessary for admission: Mothers must apply to the Nursery authorities and supply:

- (a) The child's birth certificate;
- (b) A certificate of vaccination;
- (c) The parents' working certificate;
- (d) An agreement to observe the Nursery regulations.

Admission can be allowed only after a medical examination by the Nursery doctor.

Records: On the day of its admission each child is entered on a special register, with the following indications:

- Surname and christian name;
- Date of birth;
- Date of admission and state of health of the child;
- The parents' domicile;
- Address of their working-premises.

Duties of mothers: The mother is bound to follow the rules of the Nursery. She must bring her child in a suitable state of cleanliness. If she feeds her child herself, she must do so regularly. She must pay a maternal fee, varying according to parishes, unless she has been dispensed from doing so for poverty or too great family charges.

Presence of children: The presence of the children is recorded every day by the Matron on a special register.

Duties of the Matron: She owes all her time to her Nursery. She must always be present and alone give the necessary medical care to the children. She directs the nurses in all the care required according to the age of the babes. Every day, at the arrival as at the departure of the children, and during feeding hours, she must be in direct relations with the parents.

Medical visits: The Nursery Doctor visits the children every week, and as the Matron judges it necessary, comes to see a child specially.

CARE TO BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN ADMITTED INTO THE NURSERY.

The Nursery is an establishment which must receive only healthy children; medical care properly so-called must not be given there, but the rules of hygiene and prophylaxis only are to be applied.

The children are received in a special room, where the mothers take off their outer clothing and put them away in numbered pigeon-holes. The children are immediately examined by the Matron, and if any appear suspicious—have a temperature, for example—they are isolated pending the doctor's arrival. It would not do, for a temporary indisposition, to make the mother lose her day's work by not accepting her child; the Matron must therefore send a child home at his arrival only if he shows very symptomatic signs, such as: *measles, chicken-pox, whooping-cough*, etc.

Cleanliness: Baths for small babes;

Shower-baths for the older ones;

A partial toilet will be repeated as often as necessary, but especially after feeding.

After feeding and washing, the child is put to bed to sleep, for it is necessary for children, even the older ones, to sleep during the day, but above all the younger ones spend their life in sleeping and feeding.

Feeding the children: The doctor gives rules for each child, according to its age, temperament and state of health.

It is preferable for the mothers to breast feed their children, the Nursery will try to obtain this by showing the mother that children fed on the breast resist infections better. In cases where the mother's milk is not sufficient, she will be advised to feed her child at home on the breast alone, this being the only way of keeping her milk. If the child is fed by artificial means the Matron will keep a feeding book, entering the dietary particulars for each individual child.

After each feeding, the bottles are carefully washed in hot soda water with black soap, rinsed and sterilised for the next day. The teats are also washed with very great precautions: they are turned inside out every time and washed with soap and brush, once clean, they are kept dry in a clean vessel. They are boiled before use, and handled with sterilised forceps.

Weighing: The children are weighed every week and the result is noted on a special slip for each child. They must be weighed in a warm room, as children are very susceptible to cold. They are weighed on tissue-paper, which is changed every time.

Hygienic precautions: After the departure of the children, the rooms are cleaned, the bedding aired, the windows opened.

During the day the rooms are aired as much as the temperature allows, but care is taken that children are never exposed to heat in Summer or cold in Winter.

If there is a shed or garden, the children must be put out as often as the temperature allows.

General disinfections: These are carried out, either in emergency (after any contagious diseases), or by way of routine precaution. More important is the immediate disinfection of objects continually exposed to contagion: spoons, glasses, plates. Toys, which must always be made of rubber, will be washed every day with "eau de Javel," for they are a continual source of contamination, it not being possible for each child to have its own toys.

Moral influence on the child and on the parents: The aim of the Nursery is not only the safety of the life and health of the children, it has another at least as important end: it must watch over the education of the child and help to the moral elevation of the mothers, who are sometimes obliged to do hard and tiring work. Lastly, it must teach the mother, by its counsels, how to bring up her child.

Conclusion: These establishments preserve a great number from death and from infirmities or incurable diseases. The Hygienic Congress, held in Brussels in 1876, expressed the wish that propaganda should be made in favour of the Nurseries, which it considers one of the best means to reduce the number of children's deaths. The same wish was formulated by the International Congress of First Infancy in Paris, 1883. The development of Nurseries is one of the means of

preventing the depopulation of France, caused, according to the sad saying of Michelet, by the fact that the cradle, for many children, "is but a short glimpse between life and death."

We will add from our own observation our appreciation of the snug little reception room (mothers are not allowed elsewhere on the premises), with its neat hatch, where matron receives the inmates, the babies being handed in 'over the counter' while the toddlers squeeze through beneath it. The Dispensary, where anti-diphtheric and anti-syphilitic injections are given and Matron does small dressings.

The milk room, with its cooling apparatus for the sterilized bottle feeds and its refrigerator for storing breast-milk.

We may note here that up to eighteen months feeds are given three-hourly.

The 'maternal fee' referred to in the official description averages 20 centimes a day, a sum so much less than a farthing of English money that it is negligible. This fee includes the supply of milk, farinaceous food and oranges for the babies and a simple mid-day meal for the older children. Mothers may provide, in addition, such dainties as "sardines, ham or brawn" for the older toddlers.

This particular nursery accommodates 50 children.

There is a laundry and a pram shed.

Besides the Matron, who is fully trained, there are five "berceuses," minders, we should call them more clumsily.

We found all the children in the garden, carefully shepherded on the shady side.

In the bad weather quarters upstairs, dainty with light blue paint, there are low stretcher beds and high-railed cots. Each spotless crib is adorned with its own individual emblem embroidered on snowy linen. The children reach this first storey in their own miniature lift.

We learnt that in the case of a child being sent home suffering from an infection, Matron visits it constantly at home and gives it skilled nursing care. Her's is indeed a full-time job!

School of Pediatrics

OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

ÉCOLE DE PUÉRICULTURE.

THE exact translation of the title of this establishment presents some difficulty. 'Pediatrics' connotes rather the study of the special diseases of children and the

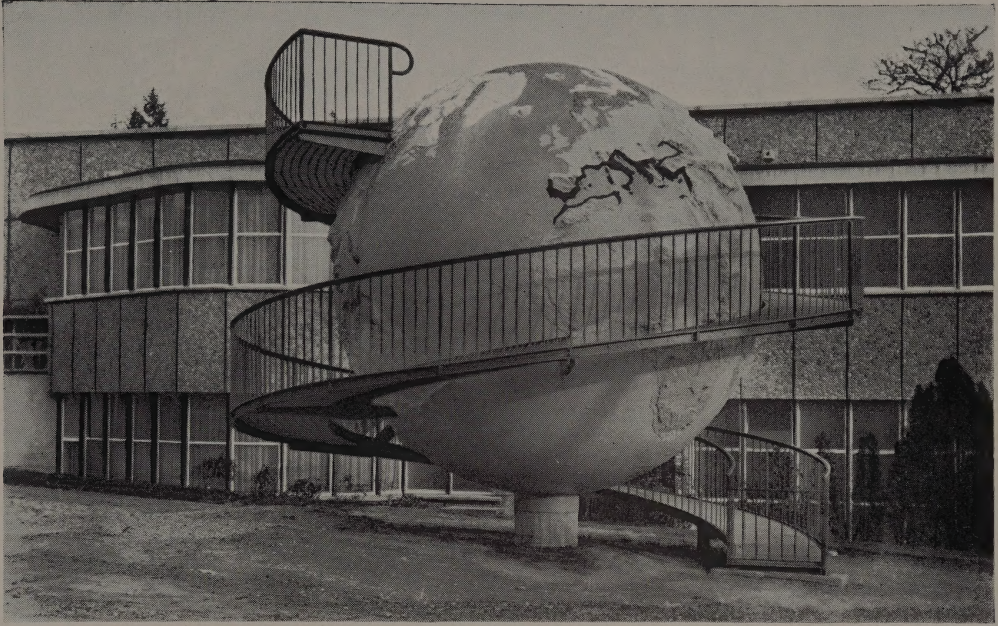
French themselves have not used the word since their understanding of child culture has a much wider scope. Since we English have an unreasonable, though not altogether unfounded, aversion to applying 'culture' to the improvement of any form of life higher than the vegetable, and 'child study' is too limited and 'child welfare' too vague, perhaps 'child nurture' comes nearest the mark.

Triple Function.

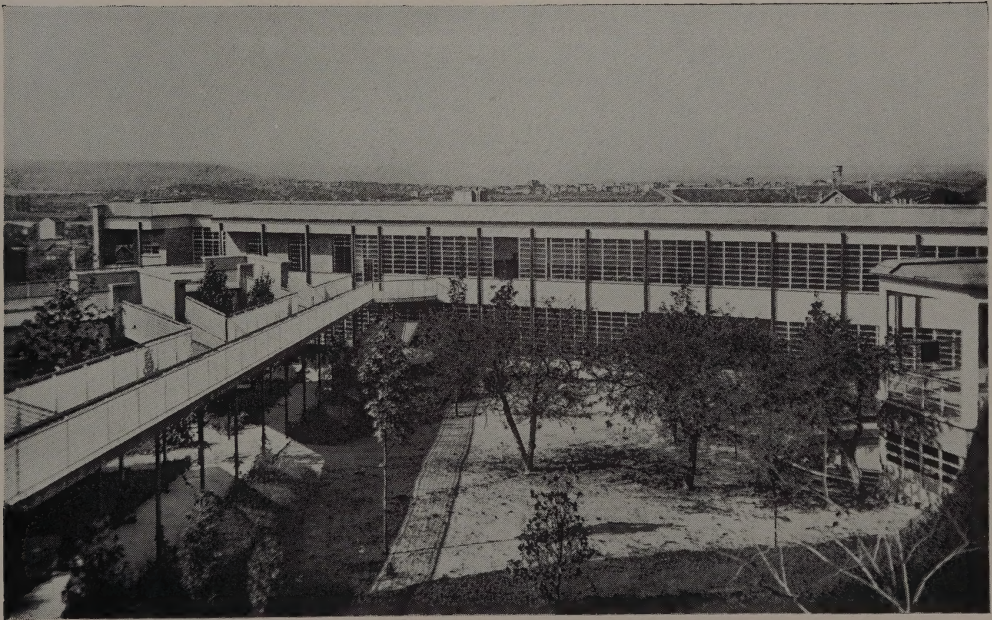
This School for—may we say?—the study of Child Nurture was founded on the initiative and with the help of the American Red Cross just after the War. It serves the triple function of a post graduate medical school in its special subject; a training school for nurses and health visitors; and of a working Health Centre for the immediate district of Paris.

Courses for the Health Visitors' State Diploma.

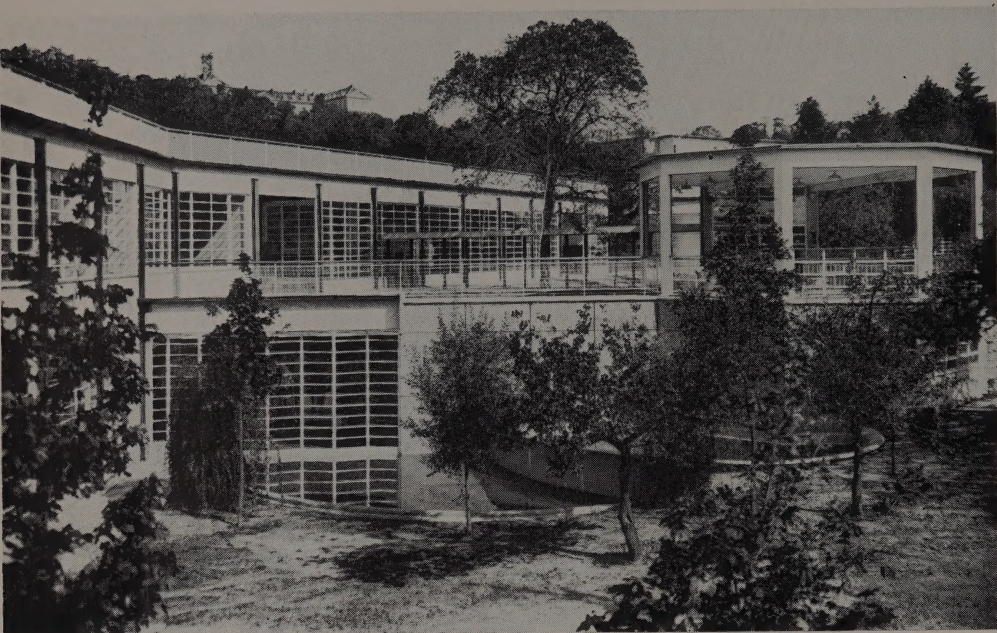
Passing over the medical course, with which we are not immediately concerned, the *full course* for the health visitor's diploma extends over three years and qualifies the student to sit both for the State hospital nurses' diploma and the health visitors' diploma



Open Air School. One way to learn geography.



"Like a ship painted blue."



Open Air School, Suresnes. Paddling Pools and the Solarium.



The School of Pediatrics.

(which includes Tuberculosis). A good standard of general education is necessary. Students are accepted between the ages of twenty and thirty-five and may be resident or external.

Shortened Courses.

Trained Nurses. Seven months for the diploma in Child Welfare only; a further four months for the Tuberculosis Visitor's Certificate.

Certified Midwives—who, previous to their midwifery training, have taken a general educational qualification about equal to our matriculation—eleven months for the Child Welfare Certificate, nineteen months for the full diploma.

The Full Course.

The first two years, except for the first month's probation, which is spent at the School in studying invalid cookery and other domestic subjects, are in preparation for the diploma in general nursing. The practical work is done in the Public Assistance Hospitals under the supervision of a Sister Tutor appointed by the School. In addition, lectures, revision classes and practical demonstrations have to be attended at the School.

The practical nursing is divided as follows:—

Medical Wards:—seven months (two in children's wards).

Surgical Wards:—seven months (two in children's wards).

Infectious fevers:—two months.

Maternity Wards:—two months.

Dermatology Department:—one month.

Special Department:—two months.

The third year is spent at the School in preparation for the health visitor's State diploma, the very full curriculum being equally divided between lectures and practical work. One month is spent at a sanatorium.

The School began its career in a disused hospital, but now, with the help of the State and of private individuals, occupies its present extensive seven-storey home on the Boulevard Brune.

THE POLYCLINIC.

The practical work of the School is carried on in a comprehensive polyclinic dealing with expectant and nursing mothers, babies, toddlers and school-children up to fifteen years old.

Each medical consultation room is arranged for teaching purposes, with raised tiers of desks.

Special Clinics.

There is a special department for tuberculosis (the Director of the School, Dr. Weil-Hallé, is a strong advocate for the inoculation of children against T.B.). Separate departments deal with dental, ear, nose and throat, eyes, mental hygiene and light treatment. There is an orthopædic department, with a gymnasium for remedial exercises and regular sessions for prophylactic inoculations of all kinds.

In-patients. The in-patient side of the work is represented by a cubicled ward, where mothers and infants are received in cases of difficulty with breast feeding; and by a similar ward for abnormal and debilitated babies. Complete barrier nursing is practised.

The record room has rows of table files and a complex system of coloured tabs. The dossier of any patient can thus be found instantly.

On the *theoretical side*, besides the great lecture theatre and various classrooms, there are bacteriological and chemical laboratories, a library, a demonstration room and a special room for revision classes and 'prep.', a beautifully fitted-up teaching kitchen and a special kitchen for preparing feeds.

The Students' Hostel.

On the 'home' side the students are provided with a dining hall and a most comfortably furnished common room. The Sister Tutors have their own sitting-room here. Each student has her own bed-sitting-room and there is an ample supply of showers and baths. A hospital wing, with separate sick rooms, nurses cases of illness among students and staff. There is accommodation for two hundred residents.

External Work.

District nursing is under the charge of two Sisters with six senior pupils. The work is organized from a separate office in the School building and the district nurses have at their disposal a car large enough to act as an ambulance at need.

Social Work. Regular visiting of the families of patients treated at the polyclinic, routine health visiting and other social work is carried on by the students, under the supervision of the Sister Tutors.

The whole work of the students is controlled by a lady superintendent, under the general instructions of the Medical Director.

The Pasteur Institute

THE name and fame of this unpretentious building, standing in a quiet side street in an unfashionable quarter of Paris, is known throughout the world.

Anti-rabies inoculation.

It is associated in the general mind primarily with the anti-rabies treatment, discovered and first applied by Pasteur and still carried on here in the room where Pasteur himself practised it. The simple apparatus used by the master (clumsy and scarcely aseptic to modern eyes) is preserved unchanged, still enclosed on three sides by the wooden rail where so many great scientists have leaned to watch Pasteur at work.

Anyone in any part of France who is bitten by a strange dog can claim to be sent to the Pasteur Institute for treatment at the public expense. It is remarkable that five times as many persons than usual were so bitten in the summer of 1937—when the Paris Exhibition was open!

The Tomb of Pasteur.

Pasteur is buried within the precincts of the Institute which was the crown of his life's work.

The tomb occupies a little crypt, the further end being occupied by a simple altar, at the foot of which Madame Pasteur also rests.

The walls and vaulted roof are decorated in mosaics and frescoes symbolizing the stages of Pasteur's life work. Over the entrance is the inscription:

“Heureux celui qui porte en soi un dieu, Un idéal de beauté, idéal de l'art, idéal de la science, idéal de la Patrie, idéal des vertus de l'évangile.”

The Work of Pasteur.

Louis Pasteur was born in 1822. After holding other academic posts he became Professor of Chemistry at the Sorbonne. He worked at the Institute from 1886. The outstanding events of his career are his discovery of living ferments (1862), his explosion of the current theory of spontaneous generation (1863), followed by his discovery of the micro-organic cause of fermentation and putrefaction and by his valuable work on the diseases of wine. After 1865, he tackled, with brilliant success, silk worm disease (1871), injurious growths in beer (1877), virulent diseases of animals, such as splenic fever and

fowl cholera. He showed that it was possible to attenuate the virulence of micro-organisms by exposure to air, by variety of culture, or by transmission through animals. By a memorable experiment he demonstrated that sheep and cows, vaccinated with the attenuated bacilli of anthrax, were protected from the results of a subsequent inoculation with the active virus, and thus he opened the way to the prophylaxis of diphtheria, tuberculosis, cholera, yellow fever and plague in human beings. In 1885 came the triumph with which his name is chiefly associated—the prophylaxis of hydrophobia. He died in 1895.

Pasteur's helpers and successors.

Pasteur was handicapped by a partial paralysis left from an illness at four years old. This disability made the manipulation of delicate apparatus difficult. He was a chemist and made no claim to expertise in other branches of science. He drew about him a band of brilliant and devoted collaborators, among them Chamberland, who devised his apparatus with inexhaustible ingenuity, Mocard a veterinary surgeon, Joseph Crancher a doctor of medicine, Calmette a biologist. This 'happy few, this band of brothers,' are also remembered and honoured in the Pasteur Institute.

In the grounds also is the grave of Dr. Roux, who completed Pasteur's work by his researches into micro-organisms and their toxins. He provided a step by step scientific history of the processes the end result of which Pasteur had demonstrated. Dr. Roux was a saint of Science. A man of means, he devoted almost his entire resources to the work of the Institute, living in the simplest possible manner and never owning more than one suit of clothes at a time.

The three buildings.

The present Institute is housed in three separate buildings, each serving a distinct function.

The original Institute was built by funds raised by the Figaro newspaper. It is a simple and dignified building faced with stone and, with its outlying pavilions in the grounds, is devoted to researches into the diseases of man and to the preparation of vaccines.

The diseases of man.

One isolated pavilion, guarded with the most rigid ritual, is dedicated to the study and prophylaxis of bubonic plague.

On a slight rise overlooking the drive is a striking bronze group of a shepherd lad struggling with a great dog, whose fangs are sunk in his flesh. This commemorates the first hydrophobia patient whose life was saved by Pasteur's 'new fangled' vaccine. The shepherd boy himself, now an elderly man, is the concierge at the entrance lodge. The only concierge in the world, one must suppose, who has a statue to himself outside his front door!

The diseases of commerce.

Across the street are two very plain red brick buildings. The older of these was erected by the subscriptions of the Jews of Paris. Here the fight against the maladies of commercial products goes on. The sicknesses, for instance, of beer and wine and cheese—especially cheese. It must be remembered that there are an enormous variety of cheeses produced in France. We are open to correction, but we believe it is over two thousand different kinds.

Hospital for infectious diseases.

The third and most recent building owes its existence to a counter demonstration by the Roman Catholics of Paris, who raised the present free hospital for infectious diseases, where barrier nursing is practised and cross infections are unknown. "This is the best kind of religious war."

Colonial Institutes.

Pasteur Institutes are established in all French colonies. The doctors in charge of them come home on six months furlough every two or three years. Invariably they spend part of their leave at the mother institute. Laboratories are set aside for their use, where their special problems are worked out and their experience codified for the benefit, not only of those they immediately serve, but of humanity at large.

A Factory Welfare Scheme

THE Etablissement Geo. is a firm specializing in tinned delicacies, employing 700 people of both sexes. Its welfare scheme is directed by a council of employers and employed, with the assistance of six sub-committees, each representing a department of the firm's activities, committees which consider ways of improving the work of each department as well as the welfare of the workers.

Health Supervision.

Before engagement every employé is medically examined and undergoes a routine medical examination yearly.

There is a dispensary to deal with accidents and a rest room for the temporarily indisposed. Any health troubles discovered are referred to the patients' own doctor.

A Nursery School and Crèche for the children of women workers and (temporarily) of widowers is conducted on the roof of one of the factory buildings, the top storey of which has been converted into a hall for rest and for bad weather.

The charge is 4 francs (6d.) a day. A substantial mid-day meal and morning milk is included.

A Club Room capacious and well equipped, has an independent entrance direct to the street. One of the employees is responsible for the key and there are no restrictions about hours.

The **Hostel for young girl employees** is a homely, cheerful place.

Bachelor flats are provided for single women workers. These are unfurnished and include kitchenette, large bed-sitting room, bath room and W.C.

Family flats and cottages.

A considerable proportion of the married employees are also housed by the firm.

When husband and wife are both working they are allotted **family flats** at a short distance from the factory. When the wife stays at home they are given a **cottage with a garden** rather further out in a district still half countrified. In this neighbourhood is the **Sports Ground**, complete with dressing rooms and showers for the home side and the visiting team respectively. The pavilion includes a room for table tennis and a dispensary for dealing with accidents.

There are two pitches, one for hockey and one for football. The games instructor is particularly keen on hockey, a game he learnt in England. He has trained a ladies' hockey team, which, to his chagrin, was well beaten last winter by an English visiting side. But he hopes that in the near future they will reverse the verdict.

The summer months are devoted to athletic sports generally. A running track has been laid out. There are also two tennis courts.

Gymnasium.

An original and interesting feature of the gymnasium is the sunk layer of sand a yard deep, which takes the place of the commoner and infinitely less effective crash mats. The little children from the nursery swarm up to the top of the climbing ropes and no one's heart is in their mouth.

NANCY

County Public Health Office

OFFICE D'HYGIÈNE SOCIALE

MEURTHE—MOSELLE.

THE health services of the department of Meurthe-Moselle (600,000), with the city of NANCY (140,000) as its centre, are very fully organized and singularly closely co-ordinated. Originally, and still in essence, a voluntary enterprise, although recognized and subsidized by the State, the *Office d'hygiène Sociale* undertakes the full functions of an official department under the Ministry of Health and has moreover affiliated to itself every organized effort for social betterment within its borders. Its aim is to "unite without usurping" all such activities. It concerns itself intimately with all branches of social welfare and does not confine itself to the purely medical and sanitary aspect. In the words of its President it holds that—

"Medical Service without Social Service is insufficient, wasteful and futile."

General Organization.

The titular head or president of honour is the highest official in the county—the Prefect of the Department.

The Executive Chief, "president effectif," is Professor Parisot, whose conception the health office of Meurthe-Moselle chiefly is and to whom it largely owes its realization.

On *the Administrative Council* are the official representatives (we translate into English equivalents) of the County Council, the City Council of Nancy, and the local Medical Association; the County M.O.H., the County Inspector of Public Assistance; representatives of the hospitals, of the charitable societies, of the Approved Insurance Societies, of Mutual Aid Societies; employers of labour and the Chamber of Commerce.

The *officers* are: president, two vice-presidents, general secretary, administrative secretary, and treasurer.

Sections.

The work undertaken is divided into ten sections:

1. Anti-Tuberculosis campaign.
2. Maternal Welfare.
3. Child Welfare.
4. Anti-Cancer Campaign.
5. Anti-V.D. Campaign.
6. Supervision of Health of University Students. (There are 3,500 undergraduates at Nancy University.)
8. Dental Hygiene.
9. Employment of Leisure—(Allotments, etc.).
10. Propaganda.

Each section is in charge of a "technical director," who also in most cases occupies the chair of his special subject in the Institute of Hygiene (the training body for the D.P.H.) of the Medical Faculty at the University of Nancy. His duty is to supervise every activity in connection with or affecting the work of his particular section throughout the County and to ensure its collaboration with the State services. A "technical committee" within each section is charged with co-ordinating its own internal activities.

Central Sectional Dispensaries.

Sections 1 to 8 have each their specialized Central Dispensary in Nancy. The medical specialist in charge is in each case the technical director of the section.

The function of these Central Dispensaries is:

1. To deal with difficult cases from all the County; doubtful diagnoses, specialist consultations, special treatments, etc.
2. To classify and "orientate" all patients, i.e. arrange the most suitable place of treatment in individual cases.
3. To arrange for admission to hospital of cases recommended direct for immediate in-patient treatment.
4. To provide post graduate and refresher courses for doctors and nurses.

Local Health Centres.

There are twenty-two of these in the County and two in Nancy. All are 'polyvalent,' i.e. they deal with tuberculosis, maternity and child welfare, V.D., mental hygiene, dental treatment, and general school clinic work. Six of these centres are in connection with industrial concerns. All keep the same type of record and work on the same lines.

Infant consultations are as many and as decentralized as possible, in order to facilitate attendances. Similar records, however, are kept in all. Decentralization is not practised in the V.D. or T.B. work. A motor service is available for patients living at a distance from the local Health Centre.

The "All Purposes" Health Visitors.

There are 74 Health Visitors, each local health centre being in charge of a senior (or chief) health visitor. The County is divided into two areas, with a Superintendent Health Visitor at the head of each, i.e. one to roughly 8,300 of population. Professor Parisot says there should be one to 4,500.

All the health visitors, whether attached to a specialized clinic or a local health centre, are "*polyvalente*," or, as we may say, "for all purposes." These are expected to concern themselves within their allotted districts, with the health and social welfare of the entire family any member of which has come under the care of any branch of the health department.

Thus they deal with expectant mothers, infants, toddlers, school children, boarded-out wards of the Public Assistance Authority, foster children, tuberculosis patients, families receiving help from the Bureau de Bienfaisance (corresponding to our Charity Organization Society) and similar charitable societies. In the case of young delinquents all home enquiries are made by the health visitor, and she also supervises the beneficiaries of a scheme for the rehabilitation of backsliders (*Reformés*) and the families of soldiers called to the Colours . . . et cetera, adds our authority.

Certain among them have special qualifications in cancer, V.D. and mental hygiene, and these are called in by their district colleagues to help with suitable cases.

The specially qualified staff of the School of Domestic Science will also assist in teaching home management to inexperienced mothers in their own houses.

Social Consultations.

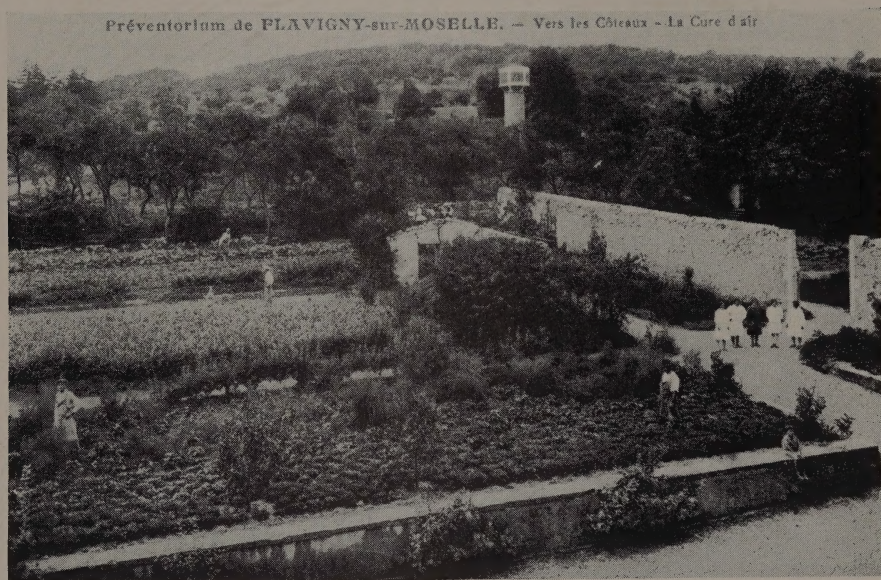
Besides working in liaison with all the voluntary and official organizations concerned with moral and physical welfare, each health visitor holds regular evening 'social consultations' at her centre, when she gives information and advice on social and economic problems and family difficulties. Great importance is attached to this work. "This is real preventive health work, for the socially ill and worried tend to become the physically ill." Indeed all the emphasis is laid on the social side of the health visitor's work as being of much greater importance than the medical. "Medical service without social service is insufficient, wasteful and futile." This is illustrated by the fact that since the institution of the trained social-cum-health visitor, in addition to the previously existing infant consultations, the infant death rate has fallen from 110 to 65 per 1,000.

Préventorium de FLAVIGNY-sur-MOSELLE
La Cour d'Honneur



Flavigny Children's
Convalescent Home.
A 13th Century
Monastery.

Préventorium de FLAVIGNY-sur-MOSELLE. — Vers les Côteaux — La Cure d'air



The blue distance
beyond the kitchen
gardens.



Foster Children's Centre.
The health visitors prepare
and deliver the daily feeds.



A Ward in the
County Maternity
Hospital, Nancy.



Baby goes home.
No patient is allowed
to leave on foot.

Central Social Service Office.

The work of the centres and the districts is directed, co-ordinated and classified at the Central Social Service Office at Nancy.

This office undertakes special enquiries, investigations and reports contributing to the study of various social problems.

Other Institutions under the direct control of the Health Office include:

1. A Country Centre for the placing and supervision of foster children under 5 years (Placement Familial).
2. Country Convalescent Home for boys from 5 to 13 years and girls from 5 to 16 years.
3. Open-air School (day and resident pupils).
4. Convalescent Home for women and girls.

Institutions closely linked and in complete co-operation.

General hospital.

Crèche and home for ailing children.

Special hospitals (V.D. and skin diseases, infectious fevers, mental, cancer).

Hospital and home for backward, rachitic and subnormal children.

Home for destitute children.

2 maternity hospitals, one with residence for homeless mothers attached.

A general convalescent home.

Regional Institute of Hygiene. (The French equivalent of the D.P.H. is obtainable only after specialized training at the Institutes of Hygiene of certain Universities, of which Nancy is one.)

University Faculty of Physical Education.

In addition, there is close collaboration with bodies not already mentioned, whose activities touch in any way on social welfare; for instance, the welfare services provided by large firms for their employees and public utility syndicates providing working-class dwellings.

Last, but not least, there is considerable and increasing collaboration with general medical practitioners. 60 per cent. of the patients treated at the centres are now sent by private doctors and the specialized refresher courses for medical men are well attended.

The Preventorium at Flavigny

IN rolling country among the foothills of the Vosges mountains, in pure, pine-scented air, stands a 13th Century Benedictine Abbey. Used as a military hospital during the War (there are still dug-outs beneath the cloister garth), an English general was among the patients it nursed back to life. As a gesture of gratitude he bought the Abbey and its land when its war-time purpose ended and gave it to the County Authorities. It has been converted into a convalescent home, where 450 children from all parts of France are brought from unhealthy surroundings for three months' stay in the care of Dominican Sisters.

Very little alteration has been necessary to adapt the building to its present purpose. The long dormitories, with their rows of snowy beds, were once the ranged cells of the monks. The dividing walls have been taken down, but the original windows remain. The chapel is unchanged. The monks' parlour, with its flagged floor and stone vault, is the visitors' room. The cloisters are glazed and heated to make a bad-weather playground.

A new infirmary for small illnesses and minor operations is the gift of an American visitor. Here all children are isolated for three weeks after their arrival. The beautiful recreation hall is also modern and a gift from another benefactress.

No less modern and beautiful are the baths and showers. The sunk 'soap baths' are lined with turquoise blue tiles and big enough to make pretend to swim in, while a plunge bath of real swim size completes the ritual of bathing for those big enough. The showers are in an open range for the littlest ones and enclosed in cabinets for their elders. Ultra-violet lamps are used in winter.

Everyone has a shower every other day and an honest-to-goodness 'all-in' once a week.

Besides the children, a few older working girls are taken. They have separate bedrooms and their own sitting-room. They help with the lighter duties for a short time daily. When we visited them they were ironing the 'smalls.'

Beyond the great kitchen gardens which provide wholesome fare for this big family, and the pretty flower gardens stretch wild gardens and woods and heathy uplands, where the children spend all the hours of daylight in fine weather. Nearly all the 450 were abroad somewhere in the blue distance beyond the pines at our visit. We saw only the cheerfully resigned occupants of the sick bay.

The children are supplied with summer and winter outer clothes. They are *supposed* to bring six changes of under things, but the kindly Sisters supply deficiencies from their store and make no comment, so that no one has social worries.

The enormous amount of laundry entailed is dealt with in a small modernly equipped laundry in the grounds.

A complete medical examination is made on admission and the children see the doctor every fortnight. A detailed examination is made again at the end of three months, when the question of discharge or extension of stay is considered.

The charges, met from official and charitable sources, as well as by such contributions as the parents can make, are 14 francs a day (say 1s. 9d. English) and 18 francs for the older girls.

It is a lovely place and serves a lovely purpose. We are glad that a countryman of ours had a finger in the pie.

A Rural Health Centre

VEZELISE.

THIS "polyvalent" Centre serves 60 villages with a total of 15,000 inhabitants. The Health Visitor in charge lives in the flat above the Centre and is provided with a car.

The Centre is quite a simple building divided into two separate departments, one serving as T.B. dispensary and the second for all other purposes. Dividing the two departments and glass partitioned so as to command a view of both is the Health Visitor's office and record room.

An Infant Consultation is held here once a month and a consultation is held in each village also once a month.

Mental hygiene clinics are held at the Centre and school children come here for such treatment as cannot be given by the school nurse on the spot.

There is an X-Ray apparatus for screening only. When X-Ray photographs are required the patient is taken to Nancy to the Central Sectional Dispensary indicated.

The Health Visitor's official working hours are from 8-30 a.m.—12 noon, and 2—6 p.m. Actually many visits have to be paid very early in the morning, at dinner time or in the early evening, because all adult members of peasant families work in the fields and have sometimes even to be pursued there.

A remarkable collection of leaflets of instruction are available. We collected twenty-five different ones; and from the serial numbers we think our collection must be far from complete.

Centre for Boarding-out Little Children

PLACEMENT FAMILIAL DES TOUS-PETITS.

THOREY—LYAUTEY.

THE Centre is a typical French house of the comfortable professional class in a tiny village about twenty miles from Nancy. From this Centre two health visitors supervise one hundred children under five years old, who are placed with peasant foster mothers in the village and its surroundings.

Three classes of children are dealt with by the Centre:

1. Those exposed to tuberculous infection in their own homes.
2. Those who for any reason, such as the illness of their mother, need temporary accommodation.
3. Frail or convalescent children who need a stay in the country under medical supervision.

The 'technical director'—a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Nancy—sees all the children once a month. A local general practitioner is also attached to the Centre, and sees all the children in their foster homes once a fortnight or at any time if the health visitor sends for him.

All sick children are immediately transferred to the Centre and are either nursed there or sent to the children's wards of the General Hospital at Nancy.

The health visitor in charge and her colleague, between them, daily prepare and deliver all the feeds of the babies and distribute rations of special foods for the older children.

The health visitors see all children under three years daily and the others twice a week. They share a car for the purpose of reaching the more distant villages.

The foster mothers have to observe a very strict code of rules.

All members of the foster families have to submit to an initial medical examination, repeated every six months.

In no case does the foster mother deal directly with the relatives of her charge. Everything is done through the Centre, except for the payments, which are drawn from the Health Office.

The rate of pay is 160 francs a month for babies (who are entirely fed from the Centre) and 175 francs for the toddlers, part of whose food is supplied from the family table. Clothes are provided through the Centre.

Except in special circumstances, parents may visit their children once a month. Their visits are subject to certain quite reasonable restrictions. They must not stay the night nor have their meals in the foster homes, nor take their children out to meals, nor stay more than twenty-four hours.

The Centre itself is very simple. Besides the living quarters of the health visitors and the two maids, there is a medical inspection room, a small sick ward with partial glass screens between the cots and an isolation cubicle. A room for the preparation of feeds and a store room completes the arrangements.

Why not in England?

This foster children's Centre is an original idea and seems to work excellently. Admittedly it is intended more for the child in need of a temporary home than for the permanent foster child. But theirs is a problem common to both countries. If there is a comparable scheme in England we have not heard of it. There seems no valid reason why the idea could not be successfully modified to suit our conditions. It would solve at least two of the health visitor's most worrying problems and would be one step towards that better supervision of foster children which is being urged on us by the Ministry of Health.

An Industrial Health Centre

POMPEY.

THIS 'polyvalent' Centre lies at the heart of a district devoted to heavy industries and the firms concerned contribute to its building and maintenance.

A pleasant and very modern building, it follows the usual scheme of arrangement—the Tuberculosis Dispensary on one side—record room and office in the middle—Infant Welfare on the other side. The two departments have separate entrances and there is no contact between their patients.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary serves an area of 18,000 inhabitants. We were struck with the waiting-room, with its curving range of wide windows occupying two sides of the room; its table and chairs of enamelled metal, smooth and rounded; its range of dressing cubicles, each with double entrances, one giving on the waiting-room, the other on the doctor's consulting room.

Communicating with the consulting room is the X-Ray room (radioscopic only).

The Tuberculosis Dispensary has one session weekly, with an average attendance of 30 patients, plus examination of contacts. A regular re-examination of contacts is maintained.

The Welfare Centre.

The waiting room is equipped with dressing stalls, which would be a novelty in England, though we have seen a similar arrangement in pre-Hitler Germany.

A broad waist-high bench runs the length of the wall, divided by enamelled metal partitions into sections a yard square. At the back, above each section, is a rack for baby clothes; each section is fitted with a square Dunlopillo mattress (spongy rubber) enclosed in a mackintosh cover opening on the under side with a diagonal zip fastener.

The weighing room and the doctor's room follow, the latter provided with a small examination table fitted with a similar rubber mattress.

Next to the doctor's room is the ultra-violet light treatment room, a pane of special glass in the door enabling the nurse to supervise the treatments without being constantly exposed to the rays. Two lamps are in use, both mercury vapour. Five full-length mattresses are provided and every child has a clean sheet.

Industrial Welfare

We learnt that the principal factory in the district pays the whole expenses of confinement for the wives of its employees, provides a layette and a small sum of money.

Children's allowances are also paid by this firm, by an arrangement with an Insurance Company.

Houses are provided of 4, 5 and 6 rooms, at low rents. 10 per cent. reduction of rent is allowed for each child and 10 per cent. for each five years of service with the firm. About half of the firm's 3,870 employees are housed in this way and the firm is contemplating a further housing scheme.

Some of the daughters of employees are engaged in the firm's offices from 17 years old (it is a heavy industry and no women are employed in the factory). These leave on marriage. In order to bridge over the three years between leaving school at 14 years and the age when the girls are old enough for a commercial career, the firm provides free a domestic training school and a hygienic work room, where the girls, under supervision, make clothes for an outside firm, retaining all their earnings.

A New Suburban Health Centre

MAXÉVILLE.

THIS is the Centre for a working-class semi-rural district, whose inhabitants are occupied chiefly in small local industries, and so differs from the village centre at Vezelis, which serves a purely agricultural area with a peasant population.

It was built very recently by a grant from the Social Insurance Companies, who realize that the Centres, by keeping their clients in health, avert claims on their funds and are definitely good business.

This Centre is built on much the same lines as the one at Pompey. The Tuberculosis Dispensary rooms serve also for the V.D. clinic on a different day. The maternity and child welfare department includes also the care of the school child.

The pram shed, we noted, had a porter in charge—English Centres, please copy.

Children's Hospital for Chronic Cases

MAXÉVILLE.

THE nucleus of the present hospital of 400 beds was originally a home for backward children, established in a *ci-devant* convent.

It is a branch of the Central General Hospital, which nurses acutely ill cases in its children's wards. Unity of administration is thus assured, since both acutely ill and chronically ill children are in the care of the same panel of doctors, under the direction of one medical officer, who is also professor in Children's Diseases at the University.

Facing the street is the administration block now being enlarged to carry the new medico-pedagogical institute of 200 beds which is being planned on the adjacent site, and where it is hoped to establish, among other things, a clinic for the treatment of delinquent children.

In the grounds immediately behind the administration block and at right angles to it stand the two separate houses of the original building divided by a lawn with the chapel at its head. These are reserved respectively for low grade and high grade mental defectives.

Higher up the hillside is the big double block modern hospital, where the mentally normal patients live. The boys' and girls' block both have roof gardens and are connected by a range of consulting and treatment rooms, refectories, schoolrooms and operating theatre.

The kitchens are all electric and food and stores are transported to the new block on an electric railway running in a covered viaduct.

Patients, arriving from many parts of France, are admitted from eighteen months to fifteen years. About half the patients have some form of rickets.

Every ward is decorated differently, the prevailing colour scheme being carried out in every detail. Each ward has a day gallery lit by capacious windows, and here every child has his own chair distinguished by his private mark.

There are two wards to a floor, with the Sister's room between.

There are two wash rooms on each floor, one equipped for children from four to five and one for smaller children.

There are fifty patients to a floor, with one Sister and eight ward maids, in addition to the night nurses.

Each ward can be isolated from its neighbour at need by closing the day gallery with metal screens, and the wards themselves are divided by sliding doors into smaller dormitories of twelve beds each, thus facilitating quarantine.

The bathrooms take the form of individual miniature piscines, with a step where the child can stand for soaping and a shower fixed above.

There are large separate playgrounds for boys and girls and a special playground for cripples.

The Clinics

These are held by the Medical Director, with three assistants—a psychologist, a surgeon and the house physician. Twenty to thirty children are seen at each session and always completely undressed. This is a teaching hospital and students attend these consultations.

The remedial exercises held in the gymnasium are under the supervision of an orthopaedic surgeon and conducted by a specially trained physical instructor.

There is no resident doctor, but one is always on call.

Classes for retarded children.

The backward children's classes are in charge of a specially qualified mistress. Each child is individually studied and we understand that the results in the improvement of the children's mentality are highly encouraging.

The grounds of the hospital are pleasantly wooded and the children are by no means confined to the roof gardens and formal playgrounds. The little individual gardens tended by the backward children are proofs of how these unfortunates can develop under skilled care.

An Open-Air School

GENTILLY.

THIS Open-air School, covering five acres of rough grass land on a bare breezy hill top outside Nancy presents a completely different picture to the one we saw near Paris.

There is one vast hall, frankly of the cheapest materials, without any pretence at architectural grace, and a few simple pavilions scattered over the grounds. "We have not much money," apologized the medical director, who is also Medical Officer of Health of Nancy and a University Professor, "therefore we work with a very small staff and concentrate on nutrition." A sound policy and well carried out.

Good Nutrition the first objective

The children are given breakfast on their arrival at 8 a.m.—bread and butter and bowls of milky coffee. Class work for one hour, physical exercises half an hour, followed by shower baths and breathing exercises on alternate days. Then follows a tonic mineral water drink and rest. At mid-day they dine on soup, roast meat with two vegetables, a sweet and fruit, washed down with wine and water. An hour's rest follows, then two hours school followed by games. At 4-30 comes a substantial sandwich of thick bread and butter and meat paste or cheese, with café au lait. The aim is to give the children everything they need dietetically, irrespective of whatever food they may get at home.

Holiday Play Centre.

Three hundred children attend in term time. In the school holidays all children who care to come may spend the day here, and the numbers then average 2,150 a day.

Naturally the funds will not allow of feeding this huge family on the liberal scale allowed to the regular pupils. Breakfast is omitted, but everyone gets a mid-day meal of soup, meat and one vegetable, with fruit to follow on occasions and a snack at 4-30 of bread and a piece of chocolate.

Staff.

The regular staff consists of a Superintendent, four full-time assistants, teachers and kitchen staff. During the holidays temporary assistants are engaged for 20 francs a day and their meals, to the number of one to every forty children. "It is not, of course, enough—but we do our best."

Every child is medically overhauled twice a year, and is also regularly weighed and measured (including chest measurement). Any necessary treatment is referred to the health centre. A resident convalescent home in connection with the School admits 100 ailing children or those who need temporary accommodation when a new baby arrives at home.

The School is open from Easter to autumn. The Director would like to keep it open all the year round, "but the heating system is not good enough."

It is a bold and happy experiment. We shall not easily forget the clustering, friendly babes who clamoured for the honour of shaking hands with *les dames Anglaises*.

FOR VENEREAL DISEASES.

THIS Dispensary, in addition to controlling the work of all the local health centres in Meurthe-Moselle which deal with V.D., also acts as a Consultant Centre for five other counties. It holds 10,000 consultations a year and does much diagnostic work for general practitioners. An average of 150 patients are seen daily. It is also responsible for the anti-V.D. treatment of inmates of prisons and other institutions.

There are separate waiting and treatment rooms for men and women. Treatment rooms are fitted with couches. Injections are given to the patient in a recumbent position and he remains lying down for some time subsequently.

Several laboratories, a doctor's office, conference room, museum, and a room for interviewing special callers complete the dispensary building.

Elaborate records are kept, each patient having a separate dossier, including a medical inspection card, a serologic examination card, a treatment record, and a social enquiry card all enclosed in a numbered envelope. Transfer cards are supplied to patients leaving the district. In common with all persons treated at any centre for any reason, each patient is given a personal health record book, in which details of treatments given are regularly entered. Patients are instructed to hand this to any doctor they may consult in future.

Great stress is laid on the social work. Close enquiry is made into the source of infection in all new cases. This has often led to the discovery and treatment of the responsible person—a policy which is bearing fruit in a steady decline in the number of fresh infections.

There is still a system of licensed prostitution in France. Nancy was one of the few cities which had abolished the system, but with a change of local officials it was allowed to be resumed. The regulation of this system is the responsibility of the health department, assisted by two police women.

A County Maternity Hospital

LA MATERNITÉ DÉPARTEMENTALE ADOLPHE PINARD— NANCY.

THIS Hospital was opened in 1929 and is the long-delayed realization of a plan conceived before the War. Dedicated to a great obstetrician, it puts into practice the principles he laid down:

The provision of a complete service for every aspect of maternity, for every class of society, in one establishment.

The teaching of medical students and pupil midwives side by side.

It follows, therefore, that the organization of this hospital is more comprehensive than that of the accepted type, much more original and necessarily more complex.

The General Wards. For 'third class' patients paying an inclusive charge of 400 francs (£2. 10s.) for 10 days (with 3s. a day for 'waiting days'). The accommodation includes dormitory and sitting-room for mothers admitted before onset of labour: individual labour wards: nursery for babies whose mothers are isolated for some reason: lying-in wards: isolation wards: incubator wards, the premature or ailing infants being nursed in a specially warmed section of the ward behind a glass partition, so that their mothers have them in full view: separate wards for mothers whose babies have not survived—they are never nursed with the mothers of living infants. Tuberculous mothers are also warded separately. Single bedrooms are provided for the seriously ill, delirious or moribund.

Private Rooms. (1) 'Second class' for patients of medium income, who otherwise share the general services of the hospital. The inclusive fee is between £4 and £5 for 10 days.

(2) 'First class,' for better-off patients who wish to be attended by their own doctor. A special labour room, operating theatre and all necessary apparatus is kept at the disposal of the visiting doctors. Nursing is done by the hospital staff.

Home for Mothers.

One wing of the building houses this home, where any expectant mother in need or distress is admitted without delay and without question, irrespective of her age, origin, nationality or creed. She can, if she likes, remain anonymous. During the early stages of pregnancy her stay may be temporary until the social worker finds some other satisfactory solution of her problem or she may be found a living-in job in the town, returning to the Home at the seventh month. If she remains in the Home she works at suitable tasks, for which she is paid, so that she is able to earn a little nest egg against the time when she goes out into the world again. When her baby is born she remains in the Home with it for a further three months at least and is never allowed to leave until a satisfactory position where she can keep in touch with her child is found for her.

'We abandon no woman and in return she promises not to abandon her child.'

In France it is possible for an unmarried mother to formally 'acknowledge' her child before an official of the Courts. This acknowledgment confers on the child certain legal rights. Arrangements are made for these legal acknowledgments to be deposited at the Home itself.

The yearly number of abandoned infants has fallen by more than half since the Home

opened its doors. Apart from human considerations, this means a saving to the State which alone justifies the County Council's payment for the upkeep of this experiment.

This is the only grant from public funds received by the Hospital. Its other departments are self-supporting, self-governing and solvent.

The Midwives' School and Pupils' Hostel.

Sixty pupils are received for a two year course. They supply the nursing staff, under the direction of Matron and two Sisters. Their studies are supervised by a Sister-Tutor. The pupils work in every department of the Hospital and, owing to its wide scope, obtain an exceptionally full experience both clinically and socially. Moreover, in their second year they attend the same lectures and demonstrations as the medical students. For this is a teaching hospital, the medical director of hospital and midwifery school being also Professor of Obstetrics in the Faculty of Medicine.

Clinics.

1. The ante-natal clinic for medical and social consultations is open *every day*, except Sunday, and *all day long*. Mothers are never kept waiting. *'It is not good from any point of view that mothers should have to wait.'* How true that is and how excellent that it should be recognized!

The clinic rooms are used on different days for—

2. Infant consultations.
3. Prophylactic treatment of hereditary syphilis.
4. Obstetric gynecology. (There is a ward for in-patient treatment of these cases.)
5. Treatment for sterility, congenital or acquired.
6. Post-natal examinations.
7. Treatment of minor disabilities arising from childbirth (retroversions, cervical erosions, mastitis, etc.).

There are always two examination rooms at work. No appointments are made. No one is kept waiting.

There is also 'on paper' a marriage consultation clinic, but 'no one has ever appeared.'

The Social Work of the Hospital, for the benefit of homes and families as well as the patient personally, is highly developed and directed by a fully-qualified nurse-social worker, whose duties are of considerably wider scope than those usually undertaken by our Almoners.

2,200 to 2,400 confinements take place yearly in the hospital. The normal stay is 10 days. No patient is allowed to leave on foot. The hospital car takes them home if necessary.

There is perhaps still room for improvement, even in so complete and well-equipped an institution. Perhaps the stay may soon be extended to 14 days. But France is a poor country. The maternal death rate of five per 1,000 is perhaps still too high. But it must be remembered that a hospital of many beds must accept on emergency patients *in extremis* and is therefore at a disadvantage compared with the smaller hospital, whose patients are all its own early and supervised bookings.

We cannot leave the *Maternité* without recording one of its *bonnes idées*.

Every mother is supplied with post cards to send to relatives announcing her delivery. Visitors are only admitted on presentation of such a post card. She can thus avoid visits from unwelcome relatives. An original and excellent idea!

And one other idea, equally original, though perhaps, from the nurse's point of view, less excellent—a paying patient of the first class can, if she wishes, book a second room, if one is vacant, for the accommodation of husband, mother or other relative, during her lying-in.

A Dental Clinic

THE Dental Institute is adjacent to the Maternity Hospital. It is very completely equipped for every kind of dental treatment and diagnosis, with separate rooms for each process, to facilitate smooth working.

There are 60 dental chairs, which illustrates the number of patients it can deal with in the course of a day's work. Dental students in their last year (of a five year course) practise here.

There is a department for training dental mechanics. All the dental students must also pass through this course. In all 300 dental students are in training at this Institute.

September, 1938.

C. G. WARE.

